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OCTOBER 06-12, 2017 | VOLUME 23 | NUMBER 06

TWO MORE TIMES TO EASE THE PAIN | OCWEEKLY.COM

OC WEEKLY

FREE

Public defender Scott Sanders on exposing decades-long cheating in the district attorney's office and sheriff's department

SNITCH-SCANDAL SLEUTH

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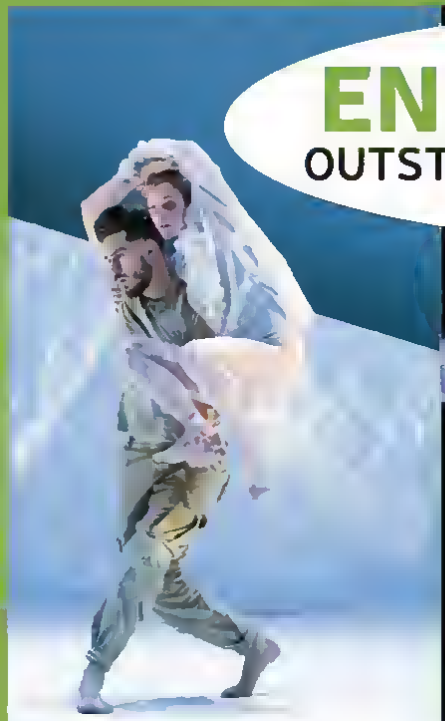

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TAYLOR HAMBY

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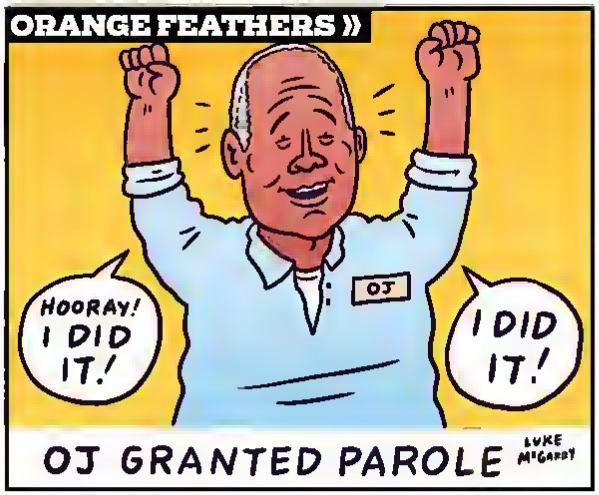

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Justice Takes a Pepper Spray

Last #MAGAmarch antifa still faces criminal-battery charges made up by neo-Nazis and unreliable 'victims'

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO AND FRANK JOHN TRISTAN

The Orange County district attorney's office (OCDA) doesn't usually out the John Does it fights for in criminal cases. But Tony Rackauckas would be wise to make an exception for Jessica Aguilar, as it might keep her from being wrongfully convicted.

Aguilar was one of five counterprotesters arrested at a March 25 #MAGAmarch at Bolsa Chica State Beach that made international headlines after law enforcement said the protesters assaulted peaceful Trump supporters with pepper spray and other weapons. But after *OC Weekly* reported the truth—that Trumpbros harassed, kicked, punched and intimidated the vastly outnumbered antifa, and that said antifa used pepper spray only to defend themselves and *Weekly* reporters from being attacked—the OCDA announced on June 2 that it dropped charges against four of the five. "The OCDA could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt as to who started the physical altercation," read the press release.

The office instead focused on Aguilar, charging the 20-year-old Sacramento resident with two misdemeanor counts of battery—one for "punching John Doe 1 in the face," and another for allegedly "slapping John Doe 2 in the face twice." Her case has been continued to Nov. 22.

Lead prosecutor Brett Brian did not return a *Weekly* request for comment about Aguilar, nor did OCDA chief of staff Susan Kang Schroeder. Maybe it's because they know their case is terrible. OCDA won't reveal who the John Does are, but photos and videos reviewed by the *Weekly* prove Aguilar was arrested on false charges by California State Park Peace Officers who never bothered to investigate the claims of her alleged victims. And while Aguilar did hit people during the #MAGAmarch, it was only in self-defense.

In a California State Park Peace Officers report obtained by the *Weekly*, officer Aaron Hoff writes that he and a fellow officer were monitoring the March 25 rally when a "riotous situation" occurred. Soon, someone handed him Aguilar saying, "This is one of the protesters that was pepper-spraying people!"

The black-clad Aguilar held a "pink canister of pepper spray," Hoff wrote. As Aguilar sat in police custody, a man only identified as Pham told Hoff, "That girl punched me in the face and pepper-sprayed some people!" Pham showed Hoff a cut on his brow, which Hoff photographed and included in his report.

Hoff redacted Pham's first name, but *The California Report* interviewed a man named Kevin Pham, who told reporter Erika Aguilar that "a woman wearing all black" punched him and left him with a "swollen cut between his eyebrows." If that Pham is the same one who reported Aguilar to the police, he failed to disclose his role in provoking the injury. Aerial footage shot by KTTV-TV Channel 11 shows the same man photographed by Hoff brushing aside an antifa who peacefully held a banner before returning to lean into him. He shoved another antifa wearing white goggles three times with his flag pole before *that* antifa—not Aguilar—responded by socking Pham in the face. Afterward, Pham jabbed his flag pole into the back of yet another antifa.

Hoff's report also stated that State Park Peace Officer Ryan Gates told him that a man identified only as "Evans" claimed that "a female wearing [a] black hoodie and black swimming goggles assaulted him with pepper spray." That man would be Ray Evans of Westminster, who told the *Los Angeles Times* "he was trying to wrest a stick from a counterprotester who was using it as a weapon when he was pepper-sprayed by a woman." (He also told KCBS-TV Channel 2 on air that he was pepper-sprayed.) In a follow-up interview, Evans told Hoff that "a girl" pepper-sprayed #MAGAmarch organizer Jennifer Sterling and that he "tried to grab" Aguilar before she targeted him. In a supplemental report, Sterling told Hoff that although she didn't see exactly who attacked her, "an unknown MAGA march supporter" said Aguilar was the culprit, so Sterling "reviewed multiple online videos of the incident," and "she could clearly tell that the suspect was a female wearing all black."

Hoff said he only reviewed footage from a KTLA-TV Channel 5 segment to corroborate Evans' and Sterling's stories. It shows Aguilar seeming to lunge at Sterling, who "recoil[ed] immediately after Aguilar reaches her," he wrote. He included stills from the KTLA dispatch and noted that Aguilar wore a black bandanna "with white spots covering her mouth."

Hoff used that description to identify her as the assailant of Evans, Sterling and Pham. But other video captured the full story. Minutes before being pepper-sprayed, KTTV footage showed Evans leaned into the same antifa banner Pham had passed, as if trying to rip through it. He shoved an antifa who tried to get him off it and videotaped himself kicking another "into his groin area," as he later boasted on Facebook. When it came to the pepper-spraying of him and Sterling, further footage he uploaded to Facebook clearly shows Aguilar standing to the side as another antifa used the spray.

The caustic weapon wasn't intended for Evans or Sterling, but rather a member of South Bay-based white-supremacist fight club DIY Division that was attacking *Weekly* reporter Frank John Tristan. Sterling (who was also trying to protect Tristan), Evans and others just happened to get in the way of the pepper spray. The KTTV footage further showed that Aguilar first swatted at the DIY Division member to get him off Tristan, then swung at the DIYer just after Sterling reacted to the pepper spray.

And instead of trying to grab Aguilar in the aftermath, KTTV's copter camera showed Evans kneeling on the ground, getting his eyes washed out by a Trump supporter and being cooled down by a woman wearing a pink pussyhat.

Despite Evans' and Pham's easily disprovable tales, Hoff recommended Aguilar be charged for unlawful use of a tear-gas weapon, trying to incite a riot and battery. The OCDA must've reviewed more footage than Hoff because it dropped the riot and pepper-spray charges against Aguilar, leaving the one-punch battery charge that involved Pham.

So where did the OCDA get that Aguilar smacked someone twice in the face, given neither Pham nor Evans reported it? Video footage shows Aguilar in two other altercations at the #MAGAmarch. A video that went viral on conservative media showed that she slapped a man twice—but only after he twice yelled at her, "Fuck you, bitch!" That man, Tyler Laube, was the DIY Division member who had assaulted Tristan. (The *Weekly* identified Laube through tracking his since-deleted Facebook and Instagram accounts.) LA County Superior Court records list a Tyler Laube on formal and summary probation at the time of the March 25 rally for four separate convictions (robbery, resisting arrest, carrying a switchblade and driving under the influence). The OCDA has not filed charges against Laube for assaulting a member of the press.

The only other footage showing Aguilar hitting others happened as she and other antifa tried to flee from the DIY Division (which now calls itself Rise Above Movement) and other angry Trump supporters after the pepper-spraying of Sterling. One DIY member kicked Aguilar's friend, another, Ben Daley (also identified by the *Weekly* via his social-media posts), shoved his banner into Aguilar's face, she tried to punch him in return. Seconds later, a Trump supporter intentionally rammed into Aguilar, who responded by trying to slap him. He punched her in the face, sending Aguilar to the ground.

She nevertheless managed to get up and run toward her friend, who was on the ground and getting assaulted by another DIY loser. Footage shows Aguilar was about to use pepper spray to save her friend when Daley grabbed her. He handed her off to Hoff, then met up with the neo-Nazi Hammerskins.

GARELLANO@OCWEEKLY.COM

To view photographic and video evidence, visit ocweekly.com.

AGUILAR (TOP CENTER) BEING DRAGGED AWAY BY DALEY AS SHE TRIES TO HELP A FRIEND ON THE GROUND

BRIAN FEINZIMER

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ask a mexican!»

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

DEAR MEXICAN: With all these NFL players kneeling for the national anthem, how do the Mexicans feel about this? Do they still resent the United States for *robando* their territory or appreciate the U.S. and its *oportunidades*?

Jerry Juero Jones

DEAR JJJ: Both, but none of those feelings has anything to do with how we feel about Colin Kaepernick and the movement he inspired. Frankly, Mexicans LOVE those kneel-downs because we're all about inconvenient protests that make *gabachos* angry. Whether it's undocumented students chaining themselves together while shielding their handcuffs with PVC pipe and laying down in busy intersections, or hundreds of thousands of us taking to the streets in 2006 to demand amnesty, or hundreds of our youth waving around the Mexican flag in the face of good liberals who beg them to wave the Stars and Stripes, Mexicans know the power of pissing off the powers that be. Sure, you're going to be unpopular in the short run and even turn off potential supporters, but it's all about the long game. And the *juego largo* is to bring pride to your side, to let the world know you're no longer content with being peons or house slaves and to inspire others to be unafraid of your minority status. Besides, Mexicans are a forgiving lot: All our sports stars have to do is win, and all is forgiven. Hell, *gabachos* are worse—what else explains all the fans who go see the Penn State Nittany Lions football squad?

DEAR MEXICAN: Why is it that Mexicans put every cheap accessory from PEP Boys or Kragen on their trucks? I mean, the cars they drive started the lowrider thing, and those are so cool. But the trucks look like a JC Whitney catalog gone crazy. No style, rhyme or reason. Turbo stickers on a truck with a straight-six motor. Fiberglass fender flares of different colors, with chrome edges added as an afterthought. You know exactly what I am talking about, too. Not that I disapprove—to each their own on customizing. Just wondering.

TC in South OC

DEAR *GABACHO*: Don't forget the bull stickers, or the bull *huevos* hanging from the rear, or the silhouette sticker of Chalino loading one of his guns, or—for our Central American *hermanos*—that sticker of a cherubic boy wearing baggy pants and a floppy backward baseball cap while waving the flag of a particular country. To each their own on customizing, indeed. But ain't it funny how when *gabachos* do haphazard decorations on their vehicles, it's called Kustom Kulture and gets books and museum retrospectives—but when Mexicans do it, the cops pull them over? Typical *gabacho* hypocrisy. Besides, Rat Fink don't get nada on Calvin pissing on "*LA MIGRA*," *cabron*.

DEAR MEXICAN: Is there such a thing as "reverse racism" anymore? Or have you and other "minorities" gained enough clout, sympathy and numbers for this country to admit it's just called blatant racism now?

Pinche Gringo

DEAR *GABACHO*: Donald Trump is president, and he's killing Puerto Rico. Oh, and #fucktrump.

ASK THE MEXICAN
at themexican@askamexican.net, be his fan on Facebook, follow him on Twitter, or ask him a video question at youtube.com/askamexicano!

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Hungry Hipster

You were the hipster Fullerton college student asking me if I "have any change to help get a bite to eat." I was the guy that honestly said "Sorry, no change," then walked into Wahno's—only to come right back and offer to buy you something to eat at the restaurant. You responded, "No, thanks. I want Pokeraft." Even I don't eat there because of its higher prices. Now I know why you don't have enough money to buy your own lunch.

BOB AUL

HEY YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com

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SNITCH-SCANDAL SLEUTH

Public Defender Scott Sanders on how—and why—he exposed decades-long cheating by the OCDA and OCSD

by R. Scott Moxley

As he walked briskly along a downtown Santa Ana sidewalk for our first meeting on a toasty, cloudless February 2014 afternoon, criminal defense attorney Scott Sanders' brain generated waves of internal questions. What do I know about Moxley? What does it mean that over the years he'd authored the most favorable and most critical news coverage of the Orange County district attorney's office (OCDA) of any news outlet? Will homicide prosecutors convince him to abandon his independence and treat me as a conspiracy-theorist nut? How much should I say about my discoveries of still-untold courthouse corruption?

But Sanders—an Illinois native with brown hair and a light complexion—had a more urgent concern. his nose, an appendage known to glow painfully red after nominal contact with the sun's rays. As a planner, this deputy public defender working simultaneously on two sensational death-penalty cases took precautions. More pragmatic than fashionable, he'd caked his nose in a thick, white sunblock that resembled an inexplicable toothpaste accident. He also wore a straw hat that shielded his face from the heavens and—you can never be too careful—walked on the shady side of the street until he faced a dilemma with his hovering celestial nemesis. To get to his meeting, Sanders needed to enter a sunlit crosswalk and plaza. He paused, looked both ways at approaching vehicular traffic, half-joked to himself that a defense lawyer in the middle of a road makes an enticing target for a certain portion of the population and began speed walking until he reached the restaurant's door.

At the time of his arrival at a well-worn, oval-shaped, wooden table in a corner of the Gypsy Den café, both of us were openly apprehensive. He'd never developed a relationship with an investigative reporter and frankly didn't know if he ever should. I'd grown leery of hearing big but empty talk from some lawyers and felt overwhelmed by Sanders' then-complex allegations against prosecutors, sheriff's deputies and two-faced jailhouse informants he'd leveled for the first time a few weeks earlier.

Neither of us would have predicted we were on the verge of entering a 44-month educational whirlwind composed of relentlessly alternating periods of exhaustion and exhilaration that would produce startling revelations of law-enforcement cheating, historic court rulings likely to be studied for decades—upending the OCDA and Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD)—and an outcome that blocked OC's worst mass shooter from landing on San Quentin State Prison's death row.

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SNITCH-SCANDAL SLEUTH

» FROM PAGE 9

Along with Disneyland, world-famous beaches and traffic jams, mega-mansions, year-round pleasant weather, eccentric televangelists, and mind-numbing teenage and housewife reality-TV shows, Orange County's national image includes lurid criminal activity. We've seen a local college student and his half-brother mimic a scene from *The Sopranos* by strangling, then dismembering their mother in a bathtub. We've seen a *Power Rangers* actor tie a retired married couple to an anchor and toss them overboard alive somewhere in the Pacific Ocean. We've seen a bad guy from *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* brutally kidnap, rape and torture a Huntington Beach woman. We've seen a former New England Patriots linebacker commit an ambush murder of a wealthy Newport Beach inventor in a plot to steal a fortune exceeding $20 million. Richard Ramirez, the infamous Los Angeles-based "Night Stalker," didn't spare our county's quiet residential neighborhoods from his homicidal insanity in the mid-1980s either.

Thanks to network-TV broadcasts such as *48 Hours*, *20/20* and *Dateline*, this region earned a reputation for successful law-enforcement operations. Prosecutors and detectives here have solved decades-old cold cases, tracked down dangerous fugitives hiding thousands of miles away and comforted victims' families with genuine sincerity. I've stopped counting the number of times crime victims hug deputy DAs at the conclusion of trials.

Yet, for as much praise as frontline officials warranted, there have been nearly two decades of leadership woes at the OCDA and the OCSD. District Attorney Tony Rackauckas took office in 1999, quickly used his power to protect rich corporate-executive pals from prosecutions for business frauds, disbanded the agency's organized-crime unit and announced he couldn't care less about pursuing political-corruption cases. He's never been able to adequately explain why even his supporters acknowledge his tenure has been stained by gross mismanagement. Employees who pledge allegiance to sworn ethical obligations instead of him personally have ended up fired. To bolster his campaign coffers, he sold real-appearing badges to contributors hoping the symbol might get them out of sticky situations with cops.

The cesspool in our sheriff's department is deeper. Never mind that Rackauckas, a member of a criminal street gang as a teenager, held a press conference to vouch for then-Sheriff Mike Carona's honesty or that TV host Larry King labeled Carona "America's sheriff." About a decade ago, after such ridiculous theatrics, the U.S. Department of Justice won corruption convictions against Carona and his management team: assistant sheriffs George Jaramillo, a former Garden Grove cop, and Don Haidl, a multimillionaire, Rancho Cucamonga used-car salesman.

Haidl—a booze-loving, foul-mouthed, piano-playing fellow who hated reporters, particularly me—paid cash bribes in suitcases to garner his position without a minute of formal police training. His son Greg and two high-school buddies brought years of national disgrace to Orange County after they filmed themselves in 2002 raping an unconscious 16-year-old girl on a pool table in the garage of a Corona del Mar house. After hiring at least 15 defense lawyers (including a former California Supreme Court justice), private detectives (including a onetime FBI field-office boss) and, yes, a publicist, the rapists claimed their victim wanted to create sexual assault/necrophilia footage she could someday parlay into a career in pornographic films. The trio landed in prison.

With the downfall of Carona, Jaramillo and Haidl, residents prayed a fresh face would reform the sheriff's department. Sandra Hutchens, who'd retired from the command staff at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and lived in Dana Point, assumed control over OCSD in 2008 with a non-unanimous appointment by the Board of Supervisors. From the outset, Hutchens promised zero tolerance for unethical deputies. Though she skillfully projects authenticity, she wasn't telling the truth. With Rackauckas' partnership, the sheriff has spent years attempting to cover up one of the biggest criminal-justice-system messes in modern California history: the Orange County jailhouse-informant scandal that secretly robbed dozens, if not hundreds or thousands, of people of fair trials.

Inside the Gypsy Den, Sanders stared at me while contemplating my question: Given I am not a lawyer and the issues raised about informant use and discovery rules in his Jan. 31, 2014, brief of 505 pages, plus the 15,000 additional pages of exhibits, are intense, would he agree to open a regular, off-the-record line of communication?

Before answering, he had questions, too. Am I too close to prosecutors? Would Superior Court Judge Thomas M. Goethals be offended if he learned of my briefings? Was I seeking sealed information or inside scoops on strategy? Could my enhanced knowledge somehow harm Scott Dekraai, his client who faced the death penalty after gunning down eight people, including his ex-wife, at a Seal Beach salon in 2011?

While understanding his concerns and giving a series of "no" answers, I explained that in my experience, defense lawyers too often unnecessarily shun contact with courthouse reporters, forcing them to rely almost exclusively on prosecutors. In this situation, however, my journalistic pursuit wasn't about Dekraai's innocence or guilt. He'd confessed to police minutes after his capture.

Though I'd already written my first news article documenting the infancy of the scandal and spent more than 40 hours trying to digest a court brief loaded with dozens of names, dates, locations and legal analysis, I still felt lost. My aim, I assured him, was to understand the intricacies of his allegations that prosecution teams had been operating unconstitutional scams with jailhouse snitches to win convictions against unwitting defendants, hiding exculpatory evidence from juries and, when necessary, falsifying official records to cloak their misdeeds. After all, prosecutors were insisting there was no need for media or judicial inquiries because a "paranoid" defense lawyer made nothing but "scurrilous" claims that would not withstand scrutiny.

Sanders—a husband and father of three gifted kids—knew he was under attack. He reminded me he had never worked with a reporter. There were long moments of silence. He remained worried about potential negative consequences. Before leaving, he gave me an answer about whether he was willing to work with me: "I'll think about it."

"What does Rackauckas do? Does he run over to Santa Ana PD and find out if there are other tapes just like this one? No, he doesn't do a thing. He doesn't say a word. He doesn't care about justice."
—Scott Sanders

MICAH WRIGHT

Few people realize police are allowed to lie and mislead during criminal investigations. For example, one common trick involves officers placing handcuffed suspects in the back of a patrol car and making a deceitful excuse for leaving them alone in the vehicle after activating a hidden recording device designed to capture self-incriminating statements. Another ruse, called a Perkins Operation, involves moving a newly arrested suspect into a cell with either inmate snitches working for police or an undercover cop posing as a fellow arrestee.

As the *Weekly* revealed in a 2014 cover story (see "Meet OC & LA Law Enforcement's Favorite Rats!"), law-enforcement agencies in Los Angeles, Orange County, the Inland Empire and San Diego have spent years paying two wily career criminals, Mexican Mafia hoodlums Raymond Cuevas and Jose Paredes, to lure confessions from government targets in exchange for cash, fast-food meals, video games and more comfortable housing. Taking advantage of their underworld knowledge, Cuevas and

Paredes have been known to imply threats of violence or dangle personal enrichment to encourage targets to talk. Such dirty tactics get a shoulder shrug from Rackauckas, who runs a win-at-all-costs operation.

Despite those pre-arraignment games, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Massiah v United States* established a bright line police aren't allowed to cross without trampling the Founding Fathers' aversion to arbitrary government: Law-enforcement officials and their agents, including informants, are constitutionally banned from questioning a person who has been informed by a judge of pending charges and is represented by counsel. There is a loophole of sorts. Prosecution teams can introduce at trial incriminating statements voluntarily made by a defendant to another pretrial inmate who isn't collecting information for authorities on the sly.

To a devious mind, loopholes are meant to be exploited, which is precisely what happened inside the OCSD. Deputies, assuming permanent secrecy, shrouded their scams in which they routinely hired jailhouse snitches—often the most unsavory individuals residing in lockup—placed them next to targets and asked them to obtain confessions. Success required deputies and snitches to pretend information had been collected accidentally and to deny wink-wink promised rewards such as reduced sentences for their own crimes.

Unfairly downplaying his own legal prowess, Sanders likes to credit luck—"enormous luck," "good luck," "incredible luck," "extraordinary luck"—for uncovering Orange County's informant scandal that earned national attention all the way to *The New York Times*, CBS's *60 Minutes* and the *Washington Post*. In 2012, while working on *Dekraai* and *People v Daniel Wozniak*, he made a puzzling discovery that—here's the first appearance of good fortune—could have only been spotted by one lawyer handling both cases. Studying surrendered evidence, Sanders saw one inmate—Mexican Mafia boss Fernando Perez, who was hoping to avoid a life-in-prison punishment for his violations of Three Strikes laws—connected to both matters.

"We tried to figure out how big of an informant Perez was in the Orange County Jail," Sanders recently recalled. He reviewed court minutes, saw the mystery man had been transported one day to the Ronald Reagan Federal Courthouse by OCSD Special Handling Unit Deputy Seth Tunstall and brought a January 2013 motion for all Perez records as an informant. Dan Wagner, head of the OCDA's homicide unit, fought the move, claiming Sanders wasn't entitled to the information because—if you recall the loophole—Perez supposedly hadn't acted as a government agent.

"In a jail system with 6,000 inmates," Sanders said, "Wagner wanted Judge Goethals to believe deputies had coincidently placed Perez next to Dekraai, and he wanted nothing in return for helping the government's case."

The judge ordered Wagner to turn over records of Perez's informant work. When Sanders reviewed the information in January 2013, he immediately saw this prosecutor had to have known he'd made a disingenuous argument to Goethals. The documents showed Perez worked as an informant not only against Dekraai, but also at least nine other pretrial inmates. Later, the public defender obtained a 2012 OCDA email in which Wagner explored the idea of withholding Perez as a snitch witness in those other cases so he could be used more potently in *Dekraai*.

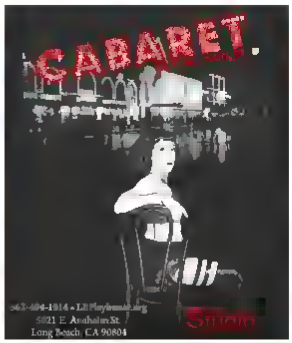
Weeks later, Sanders' law clerk noticed two styles of handwriting on jailhouse-informant notes. That discovery meant the government had a second key snitch. Oscar Moriel, another Mexican Mafia associate and serial killer supposedly working to obtain confessions without entcement.

Moriel's handwritten notes included an entry that changed the *Dekraai* litigation, but also launched the scandal and led to reversals, new trials or reduced prison sentences in a whopping 17 separate cases. The snitch mused to OCSD Special Handling Unit deputy Ben Garcia about redeploying a scam to trick a government target into feeling comfortable talking about his charges by placing them together in Disciplinary Isolation unit cells.

"This is our *ah-ha* moment," Sanders recalled. "The cheating inside the jail to win convictions was much worse than we ever imagined."

Sanders spent 2013 studying thousands of pages of court transcripts, documents and notes. He found unethical conduct against not only his own client, but also numerous other defendants. One of those who'd been cheated was 14-year-old Luis

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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SNITCH-SCANDAL SLEUTH

» FROM PAGE 11

Vega, an attempted-murder arrestee who spent two years in jail for a crime he didn't commit. Cops possessed solid exculpatory evidence of the kid's innocence but nonetheless hid it from his lawyer.

In the midst of 2014 special evidentiary hearings into the informant scandal, Goethals ordered the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD) to surrender all records pertaining to Perez and Moriel. Another bombshell landed in Sanders' lap. SAPD investigators Dave Rondou and Chuck Flynn recorded a meeting with Moriel in which the snitch promised he could concoct alleged memories for pro-prosecution testimony in weak murder cases if he received a sweetheart punishment for his own crimes. The sweeter the deal, the better his memories would sound to a jury, he indicated. The cops accepted the pact.

"The tape destroyed Moriel's credibility as a witness, but it was never turned over to the defense in three life cases where he testified," said Sanders. "What does Rackauckas do? Does he run over to Santa Ana PD and find out if there are other tapes just like this one? No, he doesn't do a thing. He doesn't say a word. He doesn't care about justice."

The next three years were a series of soaring defeats and victories for the public defender. On Aug. 5, 2014, Goethals responded to testimony from deputies and prosecutors that ridiculed the scandal as imaginary. OCSD officials ignored their own records, boldly claiming they didn't use jail informants or an informant program. The judge found that deputies "undoubtedly lied" and had "coordinated" the housing movements of snitches to work against targets in violation of the constitution. But he declined Sanders' request to dismiss the death penalty as an option in *Dekraai*.

OCDA prosecutors left the courtroom outwardly gleeful, the scandal seemed over. But one month later, a relentless Sanders discovered in his work for *Woznuk* that sheriff's deputies lied about never creating notes on snitch operations by hiding a records system called TRED. The concealment of this evidence, which documented the reasons for inmate movements and snitch work, convinced Goethals to reopen the special hearings in Dekraai's case.

PHOTOS BY R. SCOTT MOXLEY

With a second chance to grill jail deputies in March 2015, Sanders began searching for other materials that contradicted the official denials of an informant program and hit pay dirt. He got Tunstall to repeat prior testimony under oath that he and the Special Handling Unit never employed informants. In a hushed courtroom, Sanders then showed him a search-warrant affidavit in a separate case for which he'd written that he'd cultivated, developed and supervised informants. Tunstall, who has earned a Ph.D. and two master's degrees, stared at the document and finally weakly uttered he guessed he used the wrong words.

This development prompted Goethals to observe he'd lost confidence not just in the sheriff's deputies, but also in prosecutors who angrily defended Tunstall. In a historic move, he recused Rackauckas and his entire office from *Dekraai*. The DA held a press

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

BRIAN FEINZIMER

conference denouncing the move as absurd and saying the real villain was Sanders, positions lame Orange County grand jury foreperson Carrie Carmody and her panel swallowed two years later after conducting a fake probe.

In league with Rackauckas, California Attorney General Kamala Harris, then campaigning for U.S. Senator, agreed to appeal the recusal. But in November 2016, the California Court of Appeal issued a blistering opinion supportive of Goethals as well as Sanders' factual findings.

"On the last page of the Attorney General's reply brief, it states, 'The trial court's order recusing OCDA from prosecuting *Dekraai*'s penalty phase trial was a remedy in search of a conflict.' *Nonsense* [the justices' emphasis] The court recused the OCDA only after lengthy evidentiary hearings where it heard a steady stream of evidence regarding improper conduct by the prosecution team [involving jailhouse informants]. . . . These proceedings were a search for the truth.'"

That search helped Sanders discover other embarrassing facts the justices hadn't yet considered. Within days of Goethals' 2013 discovery order, deputies at a supervisorial level orchestrated a coverup with the aim of further masking the existence of widespread illegal jail-informant use by, incredibly, hiding a second major set of agency records, the Special Handling log. "The log is more valuable than the TREDs because it shows daily informant operations, as well as the scale of the cover up," Sanders said. "It meant that everyone—deputies, supervisors and leadership—knew what was going on and had been lying throughout the hearings. It truly is the most powerful evidence that people in OCSD should be going to jail for what they've done."

Having worked as a homicide prosecutor, private defense attorney and judge, Goethals' courthouse experience is unique. Anyone who has watched him for hundreds and hundreds of hours in multiple cases, as I have, knows he's courteous, serious and thoughtful—and, most important, an ethical stickler. He's also obviously despised in many offices inside Rackauckas' DA headquarters, where the judge is dismissively labeled pro-defense.

"[Goethals] isn't all that he's cracked up to be," one veteran prosecutor said. "I think we're talking about a big ego here."

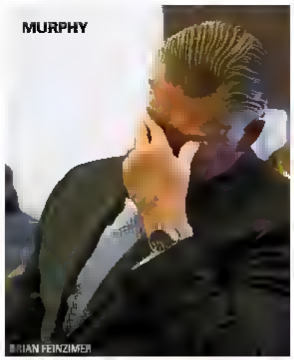
In truth, Goethals isn't biased. He simply gets offended when people, especially ones with badges, come into his court and commit perjury. His prosecutorial critics won't admit they had dozens of chances to disavow the jail-informant cheating and OCSD lies, but refused.

That reality isn't so impossible to see. Even relatives of several of Dekraai's victims—including Bethany Webb and Paul Wilson—were outraged not by Goethals' special hearings, but with law-enforcement officials who'd taken a slam-dunk death penalty case and, because of their own warped ethics, unnecessarily prolonged and wrecked it. In what may have been a first in our courthouses, these victims summoned the courage after what they'd witnessed in the scandal to call the public defender a noble fighter.

I'm sitting with Sanders in an empty Long Beach Starbucks before dawn weeks after Dekraai's emotional sentencing hearing. He's eating a buttered everything bagel and drinking an iced coffee while telling me that when we first met, he couldn't have imagined I would write 114 articles on the scandal. His enthusiasm remains high, though more than four years of working 80-hour weeks has taken a toll. On the verge of turning 51, his hair is in the early stages of turning gray.

Six weeks earlier, Goethals made his third and final monumental ruling. After declining to accept Deputy AG Michael T Murphy's argument that the snitch scandal shouldn't impact *Dekraai*, he removed the death penalty as an option. Instead, the defendant received eight consecutive life-in-prison terms without the possibility of parole. The judge justified his move by saying it would have been "unconscionable, perhaps even cowardly," to ignore Sheriff Hutchens' ongoing, remorseless violation of his 2013 discovery orders. At least in his court, he said, "the rule of law" triumphs.

But Sanders, who was recently named one of the "Top 100 Lawyers" in California by the Los Angeles-based *Daily Journal*, rejects the notion he's satisfied.


MURPHY

BRIAN FEINZIMER

"The state appellate justices and Goethals made such important rulings, but the mentality inside the DA's office and sheriff's department hasn't changed," he observes. "I truly believe many of those officials are as comfortable cheating now as they have ever been. They just hate that we caught them."

With the closure of his two death-penalty cases, what's next? Sanders ponders an answer, takes a sip of coffee and gives a smile that is not an expression leading to laughter.

"Rackauckas and Hutchens hope Goethals' ruling is the last chapter of the scandal, and if that's true, they win," he says. "But if we want justice in Orange County, the fight better not stop for decades."

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fri/10/06

[THEATER]

MISS YOU, GEORGE!

Night of the Living Dead

It's zombie season again—and with that comes the Maverick Theater's annual staging of 1968's genre-defining *Night of the Living Dead*. For what's become, rightfully, a tradition for local horror fans, the play follows the original film well: A group of people are trapped inside a rural farmhouse while the recently risen undead claw at the door—good stuff! Adapted and directed by Brian Newell, *Night of the Living Dead* brings gore, cultish thrills and all-out zombie awesomeness—only this time, there's no television screen to protect you.

MORE » ONLINE OCWEEKLY.COM

Night of the Living Dead at Maverick Theater, 110 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.maverickttheater.com. 8 p.m. Through Oct. 29. $25. —ERIN DEWITT

[FILM]

Behind the Music

Cadillac Tramps: Life On the Edge

Serving as an awesome time capsule of the golden age of Orange County punk, *Cadillac Tramps: Life On the Edge* is an illuminating documentary on the local punk-music scene through the eyes of five young men who would form the legendary band. Unlike most music documentaries observing their subjects through rose-colored glasses, *Life On the Edge* steers away from complete hagiography; instead, it focuses on the struggles each individual member faced—financial, health, etc.—and not only how Cadillac Tramps' music influenced contemporaries and later generations of musicians, but also—and most important—how it became a means to help the band members cope with their own inner conflicts. Director Jamie Sims Coakley (wife of guitarist Brian Coakley) will introduce tonight's screening.

Cadillac Tramps: Life On the Edge at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 7 p.m. $7-$10. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/10/07

[CONVENTIONS]

SPOOKY-TIME FUN

Grave Harvest

Who says you have to leave Orange County to experience one of them fancy Halloween conventions? OC's own Grave Harvest: A Gathering of Halloween Souls returns to the Hotel Fullerton for another year of ghoulish goodness. Highlights of this year's celebration include body painting and makeup-effects demonstrations, a meet-and-greet with *Insidious* actor Philip Fnadman, a presentation by paranormal investigator Michael J. Kouri, as well as demos of Halloween costume and prop creation. There will also be plenty of vendors of haunted and macabre art, clothing, and treats! Begin the Halloween season right by floating your soul on over—we've all got to go, eventually!

Grave Harvest: A Gathering of Halloween Souls at Hotel Fullerton, 1500 Raymond Ave., Fullerton, (714) 635-9000, www.abracadaveravents.com. 11 a.m. $10. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

[ART]

Eye on SanTana

'Life and Culture In the Golden City'

The city of Santa Ana has been in the wider public eye lately, following many photo-journalist portraits and articles relating to the ongoing struggles of gentrification. But it is equally important to observe SanTana's personality through the eyes of its natives. Longtime artist and cheerleader for the city's cultural diversity is Federico Medina, who has photographed ordinary citizens, historical buildings, popular sites of attraction and residents in an ongoing social-documentary series. Each of Medina's crisp black-and-white images has a story behind it, so each is accompanied by a helpful blurb to inform the viewer of his experience taking it. Check out this amazing exhibit, which also includes work by guest artists Michael Ziobrowski and Valerie Inez Rodriguez.

"Life and Culture In the Golden City" at Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, 117 N. Sycamore St., Santa Ana, (714) 667-1517, www.occca.org. Noon. Through Oct. 28. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

sun/10/08

[FOOD & DRINK]

Cheese, Please!

Grilled Cheese Showdown

Calling all cheese fiends! Eight restaurants will compete at the Grilled Cheese Showdown for the title of Best Grilled Cheese in OC. Attendees will choose who demonstrates the ultimate combination of golden, crusty bread outside and oozy, warm cheese inside. This all-ages event will feature games, contests, live entertainment and an art gallery. Rat Park, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to create environments that promote positive human connection and provide proper education about mental health, will use all the funds raised from the event for grants to help individuals struggling with mental-health issues and substance dependencies. Cheese it up for a good cause!

Grilled Cheese Showdown at Norman P. Murray Community and Senior Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, (949) 470-3062, ratparkfdn.org. 4 p.m. Free. —CYNTHIA REBOLLEDO

[THEATER]

Getting Ghosted

The Woman In Black: A Ghost Play

Stephen Mallatratt's play, based on a horror novella by Susan Hill published in 1983, deals with an Edwardian-era lawyer hiring an actor to help him recount his experience of visiting an elderly recluse one night and coming in contact with a woman's ghost. Dressed in all black to mourn the accidental death of her infant, the woman in black haunts her old neighborhood and terrifies locals who fear her phantom presence, as anyone who sees her dies. The lawyer and actor later re-enact the event's happenings for his guests.

The Woman In Black. A Ghost Play at STAGEStheatre, 400 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 525-4484, www.stagesoc.org. 2 p.m. Through Nov. 5. $20-$22 —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/10/09

[CONCERT]

Oddballs United

Flaming Lips and Mac DeMarco

Everything about the upcoming Flaming Lips/Mac DeMarco tour doesn't make sense—until it does. Both are known as lovable yet bizarre goofballs, so teaming up for a tour feels absolutely right. Much like the last big co-billed tour they embarked on with Tame Impala, rumors are the Lips will be covering a few DeMarco tunes (and vice versa) for a limited-edition split EP. While DeMarco hasn't built up the oddball cache that the Oklahoma City natives have in their 35 years, he's well on his way to building as diverse a catalog as his new pals.

Flaming Lips, Mac DeMarco and the Garden at Fox Theater Pomona, 301 Garey Ave., Pomona, (877) 283-6976; www.foxpomona.com. 8:30 p.m. $44.50-$54.50 —DANIEL KOHN

tue/10/10

[FILM]

You've Got Red On You

Shaun of the Dead

If George A. Romero had a penchant for exceptional British humor, he probably would've created *Shaun of the Dead* on his own. Instead, that responsibility fell to Edgar Wright and Simon Pegg, but they certainly did the late, great horror master justice. Fans of the modern classic can see all the bloody action on the big screen one more time before quoting it the entire way home (then maybe streaming it again later that night). And yes, it's absolutely better than *Hot Fuzz*, no matter what your hipster Anglophile friend says.

Shaun of the Dead at Regency Directors Cut Cinema, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-0446, www.regencymovies.com. 7:30 p.m. $8. —JOSH CHESLER

wed/10/11

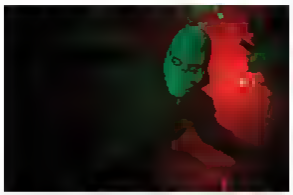
[CONCERT]

Goth Gala

Lords of Acid and Christian Death

Get out your best latex, cosplay, bondage belts and other dark accessories for this all-in-one industrial/Goth-infused night. For the uninitiated, Christian Death have been a major influence in the Goth scene since their formation in 1979. The band have been through many incarnations over the years, but they continue to combine performance art that would make Marilyn Manson blush, with the musical influences of Throbbing Gristle mixed with horror-film synths. Lords of Acid arrived in 1991 with a critically acclaimed album (*Lust*) that offered industrial pop songs laced with sexual imagery—even the least sexy "Cybersex" (which features a modem sample). Enjoy this bill that also includes En Esch (side project of KMFDM) and Night Club, which was formed in LA in 2011.

Lords of Acid, Combichrist, Christian Death, En Esch and Night Club at the Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm.com. 8 p.m. $29.50. 21+. —HEATHER MCCOY



[HAUNTED HOUSES]

CHECK IN

Mable's 6 Feet Under Haunted Motel

Even Norman Bates couldn't have devised a more unsettling motel experience than Mable's 6 Feet Under Haunted Motel. This new Halloween attraction allows visitors to walk through a maze, around every corner of which spooky, animatronic monsters and fiendish motel staff await to scare the living wits out of ya! It's a real treat for kiddos of all ages who love hair-raising, bone-chilling fun, and lo and behold, it's all for a good cause, the maze is part of BOO! Building Occupational Opportunities, which provides helpful job training in theater and construction for underserved adults. Enjoy your stay!

Mable's 6 Feet Under Haunted Motel at Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim, (714) 378-9000; www.mables6feetunder.org. 7 p.m. Through Nov. 4. $10. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/10/12

[CONCERT]

THE LITTLE SPARROWS INGS

Piaf! The Show

Inspired by the stunning 2007 award-winning film *La Vie en Rose*, this staged musical concert by Gil Marsalla narrates the rags-to-riches story of Edith Piaf, one of the most iconic voices of the 20th century. Set against a visual tapestry of previously unreleased photographs of Piaf and her Parisian hangouts, the show, presented without subtitles, has been praised worldwide for the performance of lead Anna Carrere, whom Piaf's longtime collaborators composer Charles Dumont and singer Germaine Ricord have described as having skills equal to "that of Edith Piaf at the top of her career." Come thrill to the legendary melodies of post-war France as if you were right back in Paris, circa 1946—without all of the rubble and rationed food.

MORE ONLINE » OCWEEKLY.COM

Piaf! The Show at Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-4646, www.thebarclay.org. 8 p.m. $38-$100. —SR DAVIES

[ART]

She Slays!

'Bite Me: A Tribute to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*'

Even after 20 years, Buffy Summers is still our favorite vampire slayer (sorry, Van Helsing). The supernatural TV show from the '90s starring Sarah Michelle Gellar may be the best-known incarnation, but true fans know of the 1992 film that started it all. For its portrayal of a strong female character that defended the world from bloodsucking demons while grappling with the incessant annoyances of adolescence, generations of fans have latched on to this long-running program and been inspired to find their inner badass. Check out this tribute show at Comic Book Hideout with art made by local artists and fans, available for purchase throughout the show's run, while you're there, maybe check out some other ass-kicking femme comic book characters available in the shop, too!

"Bite Me: A Tribute to *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*" at Comic Book Hideout, 215 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (657) 217-0624, www.facebook.com/3tarts. 11 a.m. Through Nov. 1. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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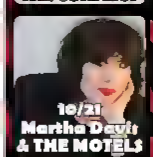
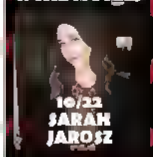
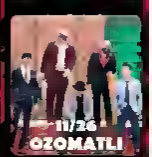
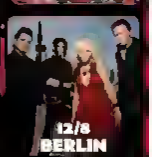




10/6 JUMPING JACK FLASH'S STONES & STEWART SHOW
10/7 YOUNG DUBLINERS
10/8 RIK EMMETT OF TRIUMPH *Acoustic*
10/11 KALAPANA
10/12 TIM REYNOLDS & TR3
10/13 THE DRIFTERS FEAT. RICK SHEPPARD
10/14 WHICH ONE'S PINK? PERFORMING "ANIMALS"
10/19 JOSH TODD & THE CONFLICT
10/20 RICHIE FURAY
10/21 MARTHA DAVIS & THE MOTELS
10/22 SARAH JAROSZ
10/25 STEPHEN STILLS & JUDY COLLINS
10/26 STEPHEN STILLS & JUDY COLLINS
10/27 AMERICA
10/28 AMERICA
10/29 OINGO BOINGO HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY
11/3 PETTY vs EAGLES
11/4 SINBAD
11/5 SECONDHAND SERENADE
11/10 WAYWARD SONS
11/11 ROBERT CRAY
11/12 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
11/15 BRAND X
11/17 PETULA CLARK
11/18 AL STEWART
11/19 ALBERT LEE
11/24 EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE
11/25 CASH'D OUT
11/28 OZOMATLI
11/30 TIMOTHY B. SCHMIT
12/2 QUEEN NATION
12/3 VONDA SHEPARD
12/7 ANUNEA
12/8 BERLIN
12/9 JONNY LANG
12/10 JONNY LANG





UPCOMING SHOWS

12/15 GARY NORDEN
12/17 TOWER OF POWER
12/30 SUPER DIAMOND
12/31 DONAVON FRANKENREITER
1/12 TOMMY CASTRO
1/13 DESPERADO
1/19 LITTLE RIVER BAND
1/20 GUITAR LEGEND DICK DALE
1/21 NERMAN'S NERMITS FEAT. PETER NORDINE
1/24 JOHN NIATT & THE GONERS, FEATURING SONNY LANDRETH
1/26 JEFFERSON STARSHIP
2/10 THE MUSICAL BOX
2/14 OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
2/23 AMBROSIA
2/26 TINSLEY ELLIS
3/9 GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP
3/10 WALTER TROUT
3/18 STEVE TYRELL
4/21 Y&T
5/18 BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS
6/7 ULI JON ROTH (3 HOUR SHOW)

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OCWEEKLY 2017 HALLOWEEN GUIDE

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Mable's 6 Feet Under
Mables6feetunder.org
1960 S. Anaheim Way, Anaheim
Haunted House Maze

BUENA PARK

Knott's Scary Farm
Knotts.com
8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park
Select Nights through Halloween

Pirate's Dinner Adventure – Vampirate's
PiratesdinneradventureCa.com
714.690.1497
7600 Beach Blvd., Buena Park
Halloween-Themed Show

COSTA MESA

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Pacific Symphony presents. 'Halloween Goes Hollywood
Pacificsymphony.org
714.755.5799
600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa
October 21st at 10am

DANA POINT

Doheny State Beach Halloween Haunt
Dohenystatebeach.org
949.496.6172
Doheny State Beach, picnic sites A and B
Arts and Crafts, Fun Zone and more on October 21st

Halloween Spooktecular & Moonlight Movie
Danapoint.org
949.248.3530
34052 Del Obispo St., Dana Point

FULLERTON

Haunted Fullerton Walking Tours
Cityoffullerton.com
714.738.6545
301 N. Pomona Ave., Fullerton
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Night of the Living Dead
Mavericktheater.com
714.526.7070
110 E. Walnut, Fullerton
Showing through October 29th

HUNTINGTON BEACH

Happy Hallawiener Doggy Dress Up & Races
Oldworld.ws
7561 Center Ave., Huntington Beach
Doggy Dress Up & Kid Costume Party on October 29th

Main Street Halloween Fest
714.536.8300
Downtown Huntington Beach, Main & 5th Street by PCH
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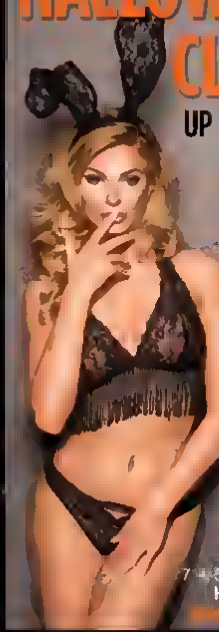

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Irvineparkrailroad.com
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BRIAN FEINZIMER

Let the Good Times Roux-lay

Roux finally brings Creole cuisine to Laguna Beach's restaurant scene

BY EDWIN GOEI

There's "good," and there's "lick-the-plate good." The food by chef Norm Theard at the new Roux Creole Cuisine in Laguna Beach isn't just the latter; it's pot-licker good. I told the waiter as much when he asked how I liked the Shrimp Yvonne I'd just finished. I said if it weren't going to embarrass everyone around me, I would've cleaned the bowl with my tongue. Thankfully, I didn't have to. Theard served the sauteed shell-on shrimp and its garlic-thyme sauce with plenty of hot, crusty bread. By using it to squeegee the last precious drops, I saved my fellow patrons from the awkward sight of a grown man burying his face in the restaurant's china.

And I think Theard already knows how good his dish is without having to see that. It's his signature meal, one so personal he named it after his mother. In fact, his whole restaurant is personal. Though it's conceived through a partnership between Theard and Michael Byrne of the Saloon, Theard's family photographs are all over the walls. The chef traces his roots to New Orleans, and before this, he was the chef/owner of Creole Chef in Los Angeles. Now, Theard not only cooks here, but he also lives in the apartment above the restaurant.

I should note that this very space was once the long-running and beloved Cafe Zoolu, whose owners retired last year. And from it, Theard and his team inherit not only Laguna Beach's coziest dining room, but also one sufficiently far away from the tourist rabble of the main drag. What you see immediately as you enter is Theard and his crew of two sautéing, deep-frying and salting dishes in a small, open kitchen behind the counter. Anywhere you sit, you get whiffs of browned butter. You also notice the restaurant's finer details, the fleur-de-lis pattern on the windows, the Mardi Gras mask on a high shelf, the curlicue script above a hallway that spells out *"Laissez les bons temps rouler"* ("Let the good times roll").

But above all else, Roux feels like a neighborhood joint made for locals who know one another by name. There's a noticeable lack of ego here, not just from the staff, but also from the customers. When the hostess asked me how I was doing, she did it while putting a soft hand on my back.

On another night, I encountered a couple that was leaving as I was coming in. "You're in for a treat!" the woman told me as they walked to their car.

"Try the crawfish biscuit! They just put it on the menu!" the man said while patting his belly and giving a thumbs-up.

"I will!" I said, waving to them. "Thanks for the recommendation!"

And when I found my table for what was the second visit in a week, the waiter shook my hand to welcome me back. Also, as I would discover, that man in the parking lot was right. The crawfish biscuit is phenomenal. The dish—which starts with a green-onion-and-roasted-garlic biscuit smothered in a chunky sauce of crawfish tails and andouille sausage—has so much actual crawfish meat it amounts to at least an hour's worth of work at the Boiling Crab.

No matter what I've tried, I've not met a dish here that I didn't want to savor slowly and last forever. Even the lowliest side of red beans and rice is scrumptious and addictive, with every forkful of legume and grain bursting with the flavors of ham, andouille sausage and Creole alchemy. And there's the revelation of the stuffed crab, for which Theard hollows out a blue crab shell, crams in its sweet-sweet meat cooked with a brown butter sauce, and lays the whole thing on top of what tasted like red cabbage cooked down to sugar. The dish made me question why anyone still bothers with crab cakes.

There are Southern classics here, too. His flawless shrimp and grits—which sings of bay leaf, garlic, cream, thyme and that plate-licking sauce he named after his mom—is pure pleasure wrapped in comfort. The most elaborate dish you can order is the catfish. Theard pan-sears it, then slathers on a gravy loaded with lump crab, browned butter and a single sautéed shrimp, serving it over Creole rice and alongside a ratatouille that zaps your mouth with electricity.

If you're not yet convinced Roux isn't the best new restaurant in Laguna Beach, try the garlic salad. Yes, even the salad is spectacular. It's layered with too many components to list here, but one of them is melted Brie. And yes, I also squeegeed that plate clean. However, since societal norms still frown upon doing it with my tongue, I used my fingers. My apologies to Judith Martin.

ROUX

860 Glenneyre St., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-3707, www.rouxcreole.com. Open Sun. & Tues.-Thurs., 5-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 5-11 p.m. Dinner for two, $50-$70, food only. Beer and wine.

HOLE IN THE WALL

» GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Great Gujarat!

NAMASTE

27131 Aliso Creek Rd., Ste. 150, Aliso Viejo, (949) 446-8500, www.eamastebites.com

There are office-park restaurant gems, and then there's Namaste which sits hidden in Pacific Park Plaza in Aliso Viejo. No, seriously, it's hidden. I finally parked and walked around to try to find the Indian restaurant, then realized it was right in front of me all along, with a shiny-window exterior and a sign that made it resemble a Kumon. And even when you go inside, you might be tricked by the artwork for sale on the wall, the Indian clothing on racks and packaged food into thinking it's a yoga studio.

But it's actually the best Indian restaurant in South County, the only one in OC to specialize in the cuisine of Gujarat, a coastal state in western India from which comes the family of *The Log* editor (and *Weekly* friend) Parmal Rohit. It's a state where vegetarianism prevails, so don't come to Namaste expecting tandoor anything. But the servings are so generous here you'll be fuller than if you ate a tureen of goat vindaloo all by yourself.

Lunchtime is all about the thali, the original combo plate. For $8, you get the entree of the day (be happy if it's the tawa pulao, which is like tomato-based biryani), your choice of three vegetable dishes, a side (go with the cooling raita) and a fluffy slice of naan. Vegetarian options vary by day, but usually bounce between lentils, mung or garbanzo beans, potatoes, and tofu. It doesn't matter. They're all so savory you won't even need any chutney. Eschew the samosas and have the dhokla, which resembles subcontinental cornbread but is far better made from a fermented batter of rice flour, it's fluffy and slightly sour—perfect.

Gorge on lunch, then return for the dinner, when the offerings are akin to a Mumbai street food affair. Vada pav is basically a fried-potato slider—carb away! Ragda patties are even better, potato patties slathered in a tomato curry. And so much more—so check it out! End with saffron yogurt—after this, you'll never eat Chobani again. Just don't get lost like I did!

GARELLANO@OCWEEKLY.COM

READ MORE ONLINE
FOOD & DRINK
OCWEEKLY.COM/RESTAURANTS

ANGEL GRADY

Irvine's Best Pizza Is . . . Japanese?

Bomb Sushi Pizza at Tokyo Table

Tokyo Table's large corner building commands attention, but that's not why it's one of my favorite places to dine in Irvine. The restaurant's innovative style features a menu full of traditional and non-traditional Japanese dishes, some so unusual you just have to try them. Case in point: the Bomb Sushi Pizza.

I didn't know what to expect—but I just had to have it. On a raised wooden plate was a crust made from seaweed and sticky rice. Dime-sized pieces of succulent lobster, buttery salmon and rich scallops were layered below my favorite part: fresh crab meat. Topped with onions and jalapeños and just enough spicy dynamite sauce to leave a burning sensation on your lips, this is the best pizza in Irvine — at a Japanese spot—who knew?

TOKYO TABLE
2710 Alton Pkwy , Ste 101, Irvine, (949) 263-0000, tokyotable.com.

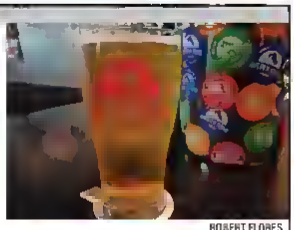
EAT THIS NOW

» ANGEL GRADY

DRINK OF THE WEEK

» ROBERT FLORES

Oh, Hell Yes! Munich-Style Lager at Golden Road Brewing



ROBERT FLORES

Two years after opening across the street from Anaheim Stadium, Golden Road Brewing is still constructing its full brewery and restaurant—perfection takes time, you know? But head brewer Victor Novak (formerly of TAPS in Brea) has been working his magic and brewing small batches of classic-style pilsners, lagers and red ales. The taproom offers happy hour from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., a lively Trivia Night on Wednesdays, and board games. If no food trucks are there on a particular night, bring your own grub! Golden Road's famous IPAs are produced at the Los Angeles mothership, but Novak is preparing to start making those in Ale a-Heim as well—BOOM.

Right now, I'm liking the Tintin (4.8 percent ABV), a Belgian Strong Golden Ale brewed with Amarillo, Jarrylo and Citra hops—super fresh, very enjoyable, a classic Belgian with a clean finish. But since it's Oktoberfest, we also gotta go German.

The Drink

The classic German malts and hops give Oh, Hell Yes! Munich-Style Lager (5.5 percent ABV) a light appearance, but its full-bodied flavor will quench your thirst with no aftertaste. This is definitely the Year of the Lager! Cheers!

GOLDEN ROAD BREWING
2210 E. Orangewood Ave., Anaheim, (714) 912-4015, goldenroad.la.

SARAH BENNETT

East Coast In the West

The Mess Deli brings bodega culture to Long Beach

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» SARAH BENNETT

New Yorkers are mad at Californians again—this time for threatening to make the city's beloved bodegas obsolete. A few weeks ago, a couple of Silicon Valley blowhards thought it would be a great idea to rebrand the standard vending machine as a box-sized version of the Latin-tinged East Coast neighborhood institutions, places where you can grab booze, ingredients for dinner or a sandwich for the walk home.

The new machines are offensively lacking in actual bodega hallmarks, such as obscure snacks from the owner's home country, surly hard-working lifers behind the counter and perpetually purring house cats with a penchant for napping among the chip bags. In Long Beach, however, the spirit of letting a liquor store/grocery/deli serve as a community's lifeblood is not under threat, but rather expanding—with no app required.

Wine Mess Liquors, in the heart of the Broadway Gayborhood, opened in 1939, and over the decades, it has morphed into California's version of a bodega. Decidedly more than a vending machine, this corner liquor store has always had a campy pirate theme (a man nicknamed Captain Ron used to own it), a great selection of craft beer and shooters, a wide assortment of Mexican snacks and pantry goods, plus common grocery perishables for when you need some Oscar Mayer turkey for your sandwiches or a dozen eggs for the fridge.

There are no domesticated animals skulking about (damn you, Health Department!), but a member of the Cambodian owner's family is always befund the counter with a smile, and the chance of wiping a thick layer of dust off a can of cat food to see which flavor it is or finding a bottle of 7-Up from last Christmas in a backroom fridge only adds to the charm.

Earlier this year, the owner's son doubled down on the bodega-like amenities by opening his own project within the store: a full California-style deli. Built into the room that once housed shelves of dry foods and chilled sodas, the Mess Deli is a one-man show experimenting with cold-cut trios, Cuban sandwiches and beyond. "I'm like the kid hiding under the stairs, just trying new things, making what I like and having fun with it," Paul Tek said no my first visit as he hurriedly prepared a triple-pork bánh mì with an extra helping of all the good pickled things. Subsequent trips have yielded gooey Philly cheesesteaks, your-way tuna sandwiches, and French rolls loaded with Asian barbecue beef, pickled papaya and carrots, jalapeños, cilantro, and Sriracha (the meat is also available in tacos, natch).

Order Ming's Handmade Egg Rolls, and Tek will call over his mom—"*ming*" means "auntie" in Khmer—to freshly prepare some of her deep-fried specialties, each one stuffed with chicken, cabbage, taro and sprouts. Wrap one in the accompanying lettuce leaves before dipping it in the sweet-and-sour sauce on the side, and you'll be transported a few blocks away to Cambodia Town.

The neighborhood never knew how much it needed something as bodega-like as this, and the deli sometimes seems unprepared to handle the amount of business it often gets. Just have patience if there are more than a few people in line and be thankful that Wine Mess is still a neighborhood institution that no app could ever replace.

THE MESS DELI
1770 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 436-8901, www.themessdeli.com.

Pike Restaurant & Bar : A neighborhood meeting place for locals and visitors alike, featuring live music or DJ's 7 nights a week. We serve a full menu 'til midnight, 7 days a week. We also serve cocktails, microbrews and fine wine.

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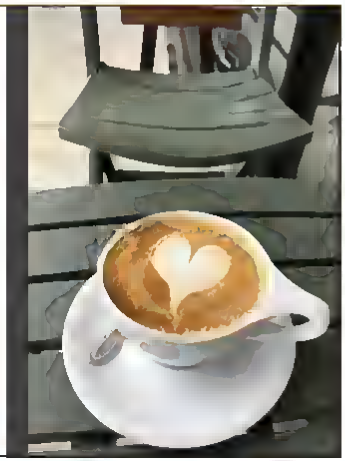

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Best of the Fiesta

Our guide to the newly expanded OC Film Fiesta

BY AIMEE MURILLO

K-WIG SINGS THE BLUES

COURTESY OF OC FILM FIESTA

If you wanted to make a case that OC Film Fiesta was Santa Ana's best, most culturally diverse film festival, we'd be hard-pressed to argue with you. While it has based its screenings mostly in the downtown Frida Cinema in the past, the Fiesta expands to multiple venues this year, extending its cinematic reach to other OC cities. Let's run through some of the best screenings to check out in the festival's nearly two-week run, shall we?

Chavela. Widely known as one of Frida Kahlo's pals, Chavela Vargas was a gun-toting, cigar smoking, men's-clothes-wearing badass. A talented singer, her vocal range oscillated from maudlin and soft to exaggerated male-drunkard bellowing, earning her acclaim among other notable *ranchera* singers, artists, bohemians and cultural elite of the time. Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi's documentary unravels Vargas' intense and eventful life, positioning her as one of the least known Latin American LGBTQ idols who found fans around the world (Elizabeth Taylor and Pedro Almodóvar, among them). She may not reach Frida-level fandom, but she's still worth checking out. *Picture Show at Main Place Mall, 2800 N. Main St., Santa Ana. Fri., 8 p.m.*

***La Vida Inmoral de la Pareja Ideal* (Tales of an Immoral Couple).** This intriguing film title rings a little close to the titles of Almodóvar, for some reason, but Manolo Caro's Mexican romantic comedy sounds too hilarious to pass up, if not a bit twee. Two teenagers start a relationship while studying at the same Catholic high school until one of them is expelled. Twenty-five years later, they meet again by chance and regale each other with false stories of fun and wild exploits and fake families. Once they discover they're attending the same art show that night, they each rush to find fake spouses to continue their ruses. (In IMDb-ing the director, I discovered he has a penchant for witty titles: *Elvira I Will Give You My Life But I'm Using It* and *I Don't Know Whether to Slit My Wrists or Leave Them Long*.) *Picture Show at Main Place Mall. Sat., 6 p.m.*

Juana Azurduy, Warrior of the Great Nation. Bolivian soldier Juana Azurduy was a warrior who came out to play, figuratively speaking. Azurduy was a female guerrilla military officer who fought bravely in the Chequisaca Revolution to rid the country of Spanish rule. Asurduy gets her due with this historical period film, directed by *Blood of the Condors* filmmaker Jorge Sanjines. *Picture Show at Main Place Mall. Sat., 3:30 p.m.*

The Rise and Fall of the Brown Buffalo. In the late 1960s, Chicano lawyer Oscar Zeta Acosta defended multiple Chicano groups and activists, including the Chicano 13, Rodolfo Gonzales and members of the Brown Berets. He also formed a friendship with Hunter S. Thompson, with whom he helped to report on the death of slain *Los Angeles Times* columnist Ruben Salazar and inspired the character of Dr. Gonzo in Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. The title of Phillip Rodriguez's documentary stems from Acosta's *Autobiography of a Brown Buffalo* and charts his life and mysterious disappearance in 1974. *Picture Show at Main Place Mall. Sat., 8 p.m.*

Visions of Magulandia. The art of Gilbert "Magu" Lujan will be shown at UC Irvine as part of the Getty's multisite Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA exhibition. Lujan was a member of Los Four, a group of Chicano artists in the 1970s who used cultural signifiers and bold visual styles in their art. This free tribute program will feature rare video footage of Lujan, a panel discussion and a re-creation of Lujan's Mental Menudo gatherings at which folks discussed Chicano art ideas and life. *Santa Ana College Main Art Gallery, Fine Arts Building C, 1530 W. 17th St., Santa Ana. Sun., 1 p.m.*

The Magnificent Ambersons. While not as well-known as *Citizen Kane*, *The Magnificent Ambersons* is considered by many film fans to be one of Orson Welles' most underrated flicks. It's also the director's favorite of his own films, as well as his most personal, adapted from a Pulitzer Prize-winning story by Booth Tarkington, it follows the lives and interpersonal relationships of two rich Indianapolis families as they adapt to the rise of the automobile industry. According to my colleague Matt Coker's Newport Beach Film Festival cover story on Welles a couple of years ago, the film was heavily edited from its original two-hour run time to 88 minutes and given a new upbeat ending to please fickle audiences. While terrible for Orson, the cropped version is still worth watching for the film's stark, expressionistic visual style and Welles' dramatic voice-over. Plus, it's the film's 75th anniversary, and it will be presented in a special cotillion-themed setting. *Heritage Museum of OC, 3101 W. Harvard St., Santa Ana. Oct. 13, 6 p.m.*

Greetings From Tim Buckley. This music flick is told through the eyes of the late singer/songwriter/guitarist's son, singer Jeff Buckley, as he grapples with the legacy of a man he barely knew before a 1991 performance of his father's songs. Presented in conjunction with OC Musicians Association, which also co-presents *The Spoils Before Dying* later in the festival's schedule. *OC Musicians' Association, 2050 S. Main St., Santa Ana. Oct. 14, 3:30 p.m.*

Taco Truck Cinema. While there weren't full details on the event by press time, OC Film Fiesta promises a series of outdoor screenings, with taco trucks parked close by to feed hungry moviegoers. What's a better fiesta than that?

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OC FILM FIESTA

at various Santa Ana locations, www.ocfilmfiesta.org. Opens Fri. See website for screening information. Through Oct. 14.

Who's the Boss?

BY MATT COKER

DREAM WORKS ANIMATION

Leo Freedman Foundation First Cut Screening. See the top films from last year's film majors from Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Studies. *Chapman University, Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, Marion Knott Studios, Folino Theater, 283 N. Cypress St., Orange, (714) 997-6765, chapman.edu/dodge/. Fri., 7 p.m. Free, but RSVP required.*

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Harry Potter in Concert presents Justin Freer conducting the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and Robert Istad leading the Cal State Fullerton University Chorus in music from the 2004 film as it rolls on a big screen. *Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.harrypotterinconcert.com. Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m. $59-$89, Sat., 2 p.m., $49-$79.*

Victor Crowley. The fourth film in writer/director Adam Green's horror franchise has Victor Crowley (Kane Hodder) mistakenly resurrected, and with nothing better to do, he proceeds to kill once more. *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 11 p.m. $7-$10.*

The Met Live in HD: *Norma.* Sondra Radvanovsky stars as the Druid princess, while Joyce DiDonato portrays her rival, Adalgisa. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sat., 9:55 a.m., Wed., 1 & 6:30 p.m. $18-$24; also at Cinemark Century 20 Huntington Beach, 7777 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 373-4573. Wed., 1 (possibly sold out) & 6:30 p.m. $16-$23.*

A Golden State of Mind. It's the Chapman University produced documentary on the late Huell Howser. *Chapman University, Leatherby Libraries B11/Huell Howser Archives, 1 University Dr., Orange, (714) 532-6027. Sat., 3 p.m. Free, but first-come, first-seated.*

International Christian Film Festival. "Spiritually aware" short and feature films from across the globe. *Woodbridge Community Church, 5000 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine, woodbridgechurch.org. Sat., 4 p.m. $5.*

The Boss Baby. This DreamWorks Animation production from earlier this year is actually quite well-done. *Napoli Park, 27682 Napoli Way, Mission Viejo, (949) 859-4348. Sat., activities, 4:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

National Theater Live: *Peter Pan.* A staged version of J.M. Barrie's much-loved tale. *Irvine Barclay Theatre, 4242 Campus Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-4646, www.thebarclay.org. Sun., 2 p.m. $15-$22.*

Shaun of the Dead. A bloke tries to win back his girlfriend, reconcile with his mother and—oh, yeah—fight off the zombies eating every live soul in sight. *Regency Directors Cut Cinema at Rancho Niguel, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

Assassination. From writer/director Choi Dong-hoon, the film is set in 1930s Gyeongseong, which we now know as Seoul, where nationalists plotting to kill the Japanese provisional government commander discover there's a mole in their midst. *UC Irvine, McCormick Hall, Humanities Gateway, First Floor West Peltason and Campus drives, Irvine, (949) 824-6117. Wed., 6 p.m. Free.*

Mulholland Drive. Rita is involved in a car crash on Mulholland Drive in Hollywood with two men who are apparently evil. One man dies, yet Rita remembers nothing, not even her name. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed., 7 p.m. $7-$10.*

The 39 Steps. Among the films that made Hollywood take notice of brash young British filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock was this 1935 thriller about a Londoner (Robert Donat) going on the run to save himself after being falsely accused of killing a counterespionage agent while also trying to stop a spying's theft of secret information. *Regency South Coast Village, 1561 Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $8.50.*

The Long Way Back: The Story of Todd "Z-Man" Zalkins. Written by Todd Zalkins and directed by Richard Yelland, *The Long Way Back* is that rare film that will delight hardcore fans of a band (in this case, Sublime), locals (because of all the Long Beach and Orange County touchstones) and everyone else (because it's just so fucking compelling). *Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., Oct. 12, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $20.*

Beasts of No Nation. A picture we'll someday laud as among the best of the decade, it charts the tortured path that led young Agu (Abraham Attah) to become a child soldier in an unnamed African country. *Chapman University, Memorial Hall, (714) 628-7377. Thurs., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Free.*

6 Below: Miracle on the Mountain. Scott Waugh (*Act of Valor, Need for Speed*) directs and Josh Hartnett (*Black Hawk Down, Penny Dreadful*), Sarah Dumont (*Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse, Don Jon*) and Academy Award winner Mira Sorvino (*Mighty Aphrodite, Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion*) star in the incredible true story of Eric LeMarque. The film is simulcast in theaters nationwide. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., Oct. 12, 7 p.m. $10.50-$12.50.*

Walking the Waking Journey. Windward Way Recovery, Casa Capri and Newport Academy present this documentary on Lama Tenzin Chaogel's mission to rescue and educate the orphaned and abandoned children of one of the most remote regions of the Himalayas. *Lido Theater, 3459 Via Lido, Newport Beach, (949) 673-8350. Thurs., Oct. 12, doors open 6:15 p.m., screening, 7 p.m. Free, but RSVP through eventbrite.com.*

RWBY Volume 5. It's the premiere of the newest episode of the popular western style anime show that is pronounced "Ruby." Carrying on with the characters of original and now-departed creator Monty Oum, Kerry Shawcross, Miles Luna and Gray G. Haddock drop viewers into the world of Remnant, where Huntresses-in-training Ruby Rose, Weiss Schnee, Blake Belladonna and Yang Xiao Long must together battle dark forces bent on destroying humanity. The one-night event simulcast in theaters nationwide includes exclusive interviews with the talent behind the global phenomenon. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. $12.50.*

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This Boring Ol' Thriller Called Life

Curve of Departure finds poetry in the seemingly mundane

BY JOEL BEERS

Some plays seem to take an eternity to say very little, if anything. Then, you get those like Rachel Bonds' *Curve of Departure*, which somehow manages to say a great deal in very little time. Everything from the right to die and same-sex partnerships to self-sacrifice and the lack of California culture is touched upon in a crisp, compact 80 minutes, executed in such an effortless, skillful and heartfelt way that it kind of makes you wish it—and its four compelling, relatable, characters—would stick around longer.

A self-described ragtag group has assembled in a New Mexico hotel room on the eve of the funeral of the man who ties the foursome together. They are Rudy (a terrific Allan Miller, one of those actors you can't quite place, though he has *more* than 300 film, TV and stage credits), a senior on the cusp of full-blown dementia, Linda (a strong Kim Staunton), his primary caregiver and confidante, her son, Felix (a multilayered Larry Powell), and his lover, Jackson (an earnest, affecting Christian Barillas). They have gathered to reluctantly mourn the passing of Rudy's son, who also happens to be Linda's ex-husband and Felix's father.

Reluctantly because the dead guy, as well as the new family that supplanted his first, was apparently a piece of work, so the conflict between honoring someone's memory and dealing with mixed feelings about that person is quite clear. But that's just the setup in this deceptively deep, beguilingly complex work.

The events are set entirely in that hotel room, late at night, when Felix and Jackson arrive, and the next morning on the balcony. It is a small play with not particularly interesting people in terms of what they do or have accomplished: a teacher, a business-oriented tech guy, a barista, a wise-cracking old guy. But they all find themselves in very complicated situations, and it's evident early on that the concerns of this play deal far less with who's already gone, and far more with the incredibly difficult, very alive choices the four are confronting.

Those choices involve either letting go or jumping in. And while two of the characters are completely fine with the sacrifices that need to be made, two of them are far less certain, they may not be perfectly content with their lives, but they fear the uncertainty of the direction that these drastic steps could spin their lives toward.

One life is clearly close to ending; Rudy, a man who veers between animated verbal histrionics with more than their share of unintentional poetry and constant runs to the bathroom. He supplies most of the comic relief, but Miller's masterful performance captures the nuance and turbulent currents beneath the apparently glib and sarcastic surface, rendering a complete character that could have slipped into smart-ass, old-guy caricature. In contrast, Jackson's life is just beginning, in terms of seriousness. The product of a broken home in Bakersfield, he is on the verge of legally adopting his 2-year-old niece, the child of his drug-addicted sister and her abusive partner.

DEBORA ROBINSON

While both Rudy's and Jackson's destinies seem laid out, the stars aren't as clear for the mother-son tandem of Linda and Felix. They aren't as ready as their respective partners (one romantic, the other filial). Even though Linda emphatically tells others that the most important thing in life is making the choice to do what must be done, she also realizes the terrifying consequences that choice often embodies, the biggest being the fear of the unknown.

Another strength of Bonds' script is how easily she dispatches what could, in lesser dramaturgical hands, be heavy-handed impediments—the fact that Linda and Felix are African-American, and Felix and Jackson are gay. For one of the rare times I can remember in a contemporary American play, sexuality and race just *are* in this play. The only moment either is even alluded to is when Felix expresses his frustration at the bureaucracy involved in two men adopting a child. Other than that, there's no attempt to explain or justify, politicize or polemicize.

There are some issues with Bonds' play that even her smart and quick dialogue, the excellent ensemble, and director Mike Donahue's sensitive, uncluttered direction can't fix, most notably the question of why Linda is the person most responsible for her father-in-law's life. But they're minor quibbles. This is a taut, engrossing play with more than its fair share of laughs, something that reveals extraordinary moments in the lives of very ordinary people who, like all of us, just need to do what must be done, but who have a hell of a time deciding to do it.

CURVE OF DEPARTURE
at South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555, www.scr.org. Tues.-Fri., 7:45 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 2 & 7:45 p.m. Through Oct. 15. $20-$83

TrendZilla
» AIMEE MURILLO

For Moto Madams

The annual California Moto Market (www.californiamotomarket) landed in Costa Mesa this past weekend, bringing together mostly women's motorcycle apparel and gear companies. Whether you're a woman rider who needs innovative duds or sporty gear or you just want to look spiffy racing down the highway, this was the place to not only find them, but also connect with other riders in the community.

Even for a devotee who hasn't mastered how to ride a chopper (I'm workin' on it!), it was a great opportunity to learn about the culture. These companies were among my favorites:

MotoChic: Items from this Bay Area based company are the epitome of fashion meeting function, including a backpack that converts to a tote bag and a pompom keychain that has a charger cord inside. *www.motochicgear.com.*

Biker Gear Club: The subscription service sends personalized care packages each month filled with surprise merch such as apparel, tools, maintenance products and universal parts. *bikergearclub.com*

ATWYLD: Another ladies moto and lifestyle brand, it carries an assortment of cool, flattering clothes for riding and hanging out, from jackets to pants to overalls to print tees. *atwyld.com.*

Rebel Soul Collective: The Long Beach-based apparel company offers snappy lines such as "Be Polite. You Fucker" and "Strong Women Intimidate Boys . . . and Excite Men." (I agree.) *rebelsoulco.com*

Garbage Made: Fine leather goods, handmade and stamped with a gnarly skull logo, from Long Beach. coasters, belt-loop keychains, wallets, saddle bags and belts. *grbgmade.tumblr.com*

Stellar Moto Brand: Armored jump suits with protective padding on shoulders, hips, knees and back will make you feel like a warrior charging down the road on your metal steed. Hi ho, Silver, away! *www.stellarmotobrand.com.*

Breaking Hearts & Burning Rubber: For the badass femme rider in your life, you'll find comfortable jackets and gloves (with touch-screen technology in the glove tips) made with durable and breathable materials, plus awesome boots! *www.breakingheartsandburningrubber.com*

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DOES THE ORANGE BALLOON HAVE VIP SEATING?

COURTESY FIVEPOINT/LIVE NATION

Back to the Big Time

FivePoint Amphitheatre helps revive Irvine's live music legacy

BY DANIEL KOHN

When Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre closed last October, the future of outdoor, live, large-scale music in Orange County was thrown into question. At the venue's final shows was a makeshift sign, posted by FivePoint, on which music fans could jot down their memories. The developer launched the Save Live Music Irvine movement, and its efforts were rewarded with a dramatic 5-0 vote to build an interim amphitheater on approximately 45 acres on the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro base, adjacent to the Orange County Great Park.

The plan had been quietly in the works since 2014. Working in conjunction with Southern California Live Nation, FivePoint wanted to erect a permanent venue in Irvine. "My personal experience was when something like that goes away, people would forget about it," says Emile Haddad, CEO of FivePoint Holdings Inc. "For us, we wanted to have a seamless transition between Irvine Meadows and the Great Park."

Bret Gallagher, president of Southern California Live Nation, says replacing Irvine Meadows was an immediate priority. With years to plan ahead of its closure, the concert promoter explored numerous options, but working with FivePoint has made the process easier than anticipated. "They're the best partner we could hope for," Gallagher says. "[The site at the Great Park is the piece of land we always wanted. We were highly motivated, when we knew Irvine Meadows was going down, to keep live music alive and well in Orange County. The conversation always went back to doing something at Great Park."

To win the approval of the Irvine City Council, the two companies worked to develop an airtight proposal. Haddad met with the City Council and the mayor, and the two companies quickly decided that the best way to expedite building their project was to fund it privately, without asking the city to plunk down any cash. "The challenge was getting something like this designed, approved by the city and built and inspected quickly," the FivePoint CEO says. "A lot of people were probably surprised when I said we were going to provide the land and fund it with Live Nation. But it was the only solution."

"The city was tremendous in helping us move things forward," Gallagher adds. "Because of the relationship FivePoint has with being a staple in Irvine and what they've done, it helped us. ... We worked hard to get permitting and permissions for buildings for the temp site we have now. Our goal is a permanent amphitheater. It's always been the one long-term goal for the city and us."

Among the more groan-worthy aspects of Irvine Meadows were its lack of proximity to non-congested roads and its overall parking situation. It was a nearly half-mile walk from the furthest reaches of the parking lot to the seats, and there was zero access to public transportation. But FivePoint Amphitheatre's front gate will be an approximately four-minute walk from the Amtrak/Metrolink train station, which will draw folks from Los Angeles and San Diego and reduce traffic in and out of the facility. Attendees not using public transportation will find parking on the site's existing runways—a total of 4,500 spaces! And parking fees are included in the ticket price.

Even with an abbreviated season, hopes are high for the launch of FivePoint Amphitheatre. Young the Giant—who played the final shows at Irvine Meadows with Gwen Stefani and Save Ferris—were tapped by Live Nation to open the venue in style, with support from Long Beach favorites Cold War Kids. Gallagher says that it was imperative to book the Irvine natives. "Young the Giant were a no-brainer for us," he says. "When the situation presented itself, it was necessary, with their local ties, to christen the amphitheater."

As we learned with Irvine Meadows' departure, it's hard to say goodbye to something that has been as entrenched in a community as that big old building was. Plans for a permanent amphitheater remain, as of now, to be [built] in the Cultural Terrace, but for the next three years, FivePoint Amphitheatre has the potential to tide over Orange County music fans until a permanent solution is reached. "We're comfortable with what we have right now, and we're planning now—and have been for some time—for the 2018 season," Gallagher says. "The calendar is looking pretty great right now."

FIVEPOINT AMPHITHEATRE
14800 Chinon, Irvine

DICK SLAUGHTER

Rock Stars Aligning

Lineup additions to Desert Daze create a next-level party

BY MARY CARREON

Phil Pirrone recalls the moment he found out Iggy Pop confirmed a headlining spot at his festival, Desert Daze. "The day that we found out, I was super-, super-sick and really under the weather," he says. "I yelped like a wounded animal—it was the only sound my body could produce. I called everybody that I love to tell them Iggy was headlining … and there were people basically in tears."

Desert Daze, the small, DIY festival that has earned the reputation as the "anti-mega fest" and the "music-lovers' festival" is returning to the Institute of Mentalphysics in Joshua Tree on Thursday, Oct. 12 with one of the season's best lineups. "[Iggy] crosses over a certain boundary that the festival has yet to cross because our bands have been so niche," says Pirrone, who refers to Iggy Pop as "the Source." "To be honest, it's still kinda hard to believe," he continues with a laugh. "I mean there's literally no words to describe how excited we are."

According to unanimous reports from last month's FYF Fest, the 70-year-old Pop is still as charmingly in-your-face as he was when our parents were going to his shows. So it can be argued that his headlining spot at Desert Daze isn't that wild, but we beg to differ. While he has played a number of performances this year, that doesn't take the magic away from experiencing his royal highness in a venue laden with mystical, extraterrestrial energy under a galaxy of stars.

"The fact that he's playing so well at other festivals makes us even more excited," says Pirrone. "His performance is going to be some real fucking shit. It's going to be no bullshit and everything you want it to be."

But the head Stooge isn't the only impressive name on the list, he's joined by Ty Segall, BadBadNotGood and Cigarettes After Sex. Plus, Sleep, the rock/doom metal outfit from San Jose who profoundly influenced '90s heavy metal, will perform their album *Sleep's Holy Mountain* in full.

Pirrone has curated a lineup that's not only anti-electronic-music-snob approved, but also a collage of bands whose styles have likely influenced one another: Black Moth Super Rainbow, John Cale of the Velvet Underground, composer Terry Riley and Thurston Moore, among others. "For all of the big names to be on the same bill with all the other bands … and for the big artists to play with people that they've directly influenced … I mean, Jesus … That kind of exchange of generational musical experience is so special and something I'm very excited about," he says.

You can also expect a heavier influence on art installations and a much larger Mystic Bazaar this year. Located in the campgrounds, last year's Mystic Bazaar was the place to go if you were looking to get metaphysical. This year's setup will be an expanded version, with a stage and a late-night retreat for campers. "There's going to be bands doing stripped-down sets, like, kind of before the doors open and after the doors close," says Pirrone. "So there will be some good entertainment for the campers out there."

Desert Daze is going to be the equivalent of a desert barbecue—with Iggy Pop, Budos Band and Eagles of Death Metal hanging out. "Desert Daze is a whole different kind of adventure," says Pirrone. "This year is going to be magical. … The stars have aligned."

MCARREON@OCWEEKLY.COM

DESERT DAZE

featuring Iggy Pop, Courtney Barnett, Kurt Vile and more, at the Institute of Mentalphysics, 59700 Twentynine Palms Hwy., Joshua Tree, (760) 365-3880, desertdaze.org. Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 12-15. See website for times. $99-$450. All ages.

THE OBSERVATORY
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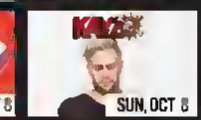

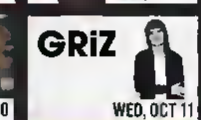

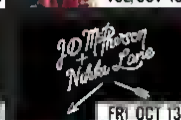

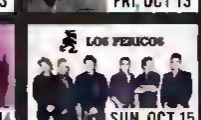

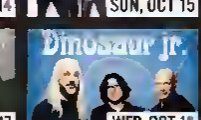

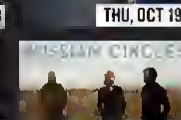

MORE UPCOMING SHOWS!

10/22 – SWMRS & THE INTERRUPTERS
10/23 – REAL ESTATE
10/24 – CRYSTAL CASTLES
10/25 – BLACK W/ SABRINA CLAUDIO
10/26-28 – TIGER ARMY
10/28 – JUICY J & XAVIER WULF
10/29 – BLACK STAR
10/30 – MAOEINTYO W/ 24HRS
11/1 – TREY ANASTASIO BAND
11/1 – COUSIN STIZZ
11/3 – YEALWOLF
11/3 – EKALI
11/4 – BAYSIDE
11/5 – SON LITTLE

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CRISTIAN RAMIREZ

The Meanz to Thrive

Annimeanz is the Rodney Dangerfield of hip-hop. Though the Latino rapper has completed two projects this year —with a third on the way—and counts more than 100 000 YouTube views of his content since January, the Cudahy artist still can't seem to get no respect.

"Right now my biggest concern truthfully, is that as a Mexican artist, you're never like a West Coast artist. You're a Mexican artist," says Annimeanz. "I wanna be respected like my peers. I don't wanna be a Mexican rapper—that's not my niche. I'm a real rapper."

Along with a handful of other Latino rappers trying to bust through including Young Chapo, Young HusTle, and King Lil G, Annimeanz has seemingly been marginalized because of his ethnicity. Wins such as outstanding project reviews and radio spins on stations in the heavily Latino areas surrounding Los Angeles are just small tokens to Annimeanz, who wants a piece of the pie being predominantly taken up by black rappers around the country. It's a battle he started waging when he appeared on the scene 10 years ago. But breaking into mainstream relevance is a bout that has been raging for decades, with historically marginalized groups vying for worldwide recognition in all aspects of society.

Interestingly, Annimeanz also broaches societal issues, analyzing his community's relationship with a power structure that threatens to oust Latinos from homes they've known their entire lives. Currently, Cudahy residents are enraged by outsiders who plan to terminate the town's status as a sanctuary city. Through his songs and videos, the rapper takes listeners inside his hometown—including, with his latest tape, *Cudahy Dopeboy*, the motel he formerly inhabited. A trip to the motel for a video shoot sparked a plan to roll out a series of tapes to show the city from different perspectives and plot points in his life. "I was, like, 13, 14, selling dope right there," he says. "I'm a grown-ass man now. So, it's, like, to see it and get the feels and just remember certain things, it was crazy."

Though he feels like an alien in some aspects, Annimeanz has found success on digital platforms. Placements on sites such as SwaysUniverse.com, popular YouTube channels and Spotify give him the opportunity to reach new listeners, but he lacks traditional radio play. While he acknowledges the insights and opportunities for discovery provided by the internet, Annimeanz says having a nationwide radio presence brings a recognition eluding his fellow Latino artists.

"Regardless if it's a major factor or not, radio is still radio," he says. "And you need to have that under your belt. In order to be the type of artist I want to become, we need to have all that."

Whatever his entrance point, Annimeanz feels more ready now than ever to scale whatever frontier stands before his acceptance into the fold as just a *rapper*, without the novelty addition of *Mexican*. "Without sounding too cocky, I just want to be a premier artist out—not Mexican, just West Coast," he says. "I want to be appreciated as a West Coast lyricist. I know we belong here because we earned it."

LocalsOnly
» NICK NUK'EM

Hey, Orange County/Long Beach musicians & bands! Mail your music, contact info, high-res photos & impending show dates for possible review to: Locals Only, *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Or email your link to: localsonly@ocweekly.com

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

FIGHT CLUB LRC: 8 p.m. $5. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 599-6170, qneseralb.wix.com

FREQUENCY FRIDAYS 10:30 p.m. fran Brussels Bistro, 222 Forrest Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-7955, brusselsbistro.com

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE MUSIC AT THE DEN 9 p.m. fran Thn Gypsy Dnn, 125 N. Broadway Avn., Santa Ana, (714) 835-1840, gypsydnn.com

J BALVIN, 8 p.m., $55. Thn Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, observatorycc.com

JEFFREY OSBORNE, MINDI ABAIR- part of the Bank of the West Summer Concert Series, 6 p.m., $65-$110, series.hyattconcerts.com. Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, 1107 Jamboree Rd., Newport Beach, (949) 729-1234, newportbeach.hyatt.com

JIM FISK JAZZTET-6 p.m., free. Portofio Coffee Hanse, 2300 Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 434-2496, portfolmcoffnehousn.com.

JUMPING JACK FLASH'S STONES & STEWART SHOW- fnaturing Gregory Welf as Rod Stew--8 p.m., $20. The Coach House, 33157 Camme Capistrano, Ste. C, San Jnan Capistrano, (949) 496-8830, thncoachhonsn.com

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B. 7 p.m. free. The Durban Room at Mezamhiqnn, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-7777, mezamhiqneoc.com.

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS-9 p.m., fran Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 953-2660, proofbar.com

RITUAL- EDM DJs, 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com

RON KOBAYASHI- 10 p.m., fne, Beysnin Restanrant, 900 Beysnin Dr., Nnwport Beach, (949) 721-1222, heysnderestaurant.nom.

SEGA GENECIDE- 10 p.m., fren. Le Cave, 1695 Irvnne Avn., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944, lecavnnstanrant.com.

SMASH FRIDAYS- 9 p.m., free. The Continental Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879, facnbeck.com/ContinentalRoom.

SATURDAY

BUMP 'N GRIND- 9 p.m., $5. Que Snra, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Bnach, (562) 599-6170, qneseralb.wix.com.

EPIC SATURDAYS- 9:30 p.m., fran Thn Continnntal Room, 115 W. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (714) 469-1879, facnbeek.com/ContinentalRoom.

HIP-HOP HODRAY- 9 p.m., fran Kitsch Bar, 891 Bakar St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbac com

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B.-7 p.m. free. Thn Durban Room at Mezamhiqnn, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Bnach, (949) 715-7777, mezamhiqneoc.com.

PROOF BAR RESIDENT DJS-9 p.m., free. Proof Bar, 215 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 953-2660, proofbar.com

STEREO SATURDAYS- 10:30 p.m., free. Brussels Bistro, 222 Forrest Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 376-7955, brusselsbistro.com.

SUNDAY

APOLLO BEBOP BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH- 11 a.m., fran Thn Gypsy Dnn, 125 N. Broadway Avn., Santa Ana, (714) 835-1840, gypsydnn.com

FULLY FULLWODO REGGAE SUNDAYS. 3 p.m. $5. Don thn Bnachcombnr, 16278 Pacific Coast Hwy., Hnntingtnn Beach, (562) 592-1321, donthebeachcombnr.com.

94.7 THE WAVE BRUNCH-11 a.m., $25. Spaghettini Retissenn & Grill, 3005 Old Ranch Pkwy., Snal Beach, (562) 596-2199, spaghettini.com

MR EMMETT OF TRIUMPH.- 7 p.m., $35. The Coach Honse, 33157 Camma Capistrano, Ste. C, San Jnan Capistrano, (949) 496-8830, thncoachhouse.com

SUNDAY BLUES- 4 p.m., free. Malarkey's Grill & Irish Pnb, 1st N. Marina Dr., Long Beach, (562) 598-9431.

MONDAY

COUNTRY DANCIN' WITH DJ PATRICK- 6:30 p.m., fran Thn Swallow's Inn, 3176 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 493-3188, swallowsinn.com.

DJ TOROSBROS- 10 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com.

DOUG LACY ON THE PIANO- 6 p.m., free. Ralph Brannans Jazz Kitchnn, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anahnim, (714) 776-5200, rhjazzkitchnn.com

JOE BLANCHARD- 10 p.m., free. Auld Dnblinar, 71 S. Pnn Ave., Long Bnach, (562) 437-8300, enlddnblinar.com

WEDNESDAY

THE BIG DRAW- DJ Ahnltron, 8 p.m., free. Thn Copper Door, 225 1/2 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 543-3813, thecopperdoorbar.com.

DEREK BDROEAUX BAND-8 p.m., fren. Original Mnkns, 100 S. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 550-7764, originalmikes.com.

KITSCH OUT THE JAMS. 9 p.m., free. Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com

LORDS OF ACIO; COMMUNION CHRIST, CHRISTIAN DEATH, EN ESCH, NIGHT CLUB- 8 p.m., $29.50. Constellation Room at thn Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, constellationroom.com

MODERN DISCO AMBASSADORS- 10 p.m., $5. La Cave, 1695 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa, (949) 646-7944, lacaverestaurant.com

THURSDAY, OCT. 12

BACH CATALOG-8 p.m., fran Kitsch Bar, 891 Baker St., Ste. A10, Costa Mesa, (714) 546-8580, kitschbar.com

DOUG LACY ON THE PIANO- 6 p.m., fran. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen, 1590 S. Disneyland Dr., Anahnim, (714) 776-5200, rhjazzkitchnn.com.

GBN+GLD- 9 p.m., $3. Que Sera, 1923 E. Seventh St., Long Bnach, (562) 599-6170, qneseralb.wix.com

LIVE JAZZ AND R&B- 7 p.m., free. The Durban Room at Mezamhiqne, 1740 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Bnach, (949) 715-7777, mezamhiqneoc.com.

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

BRIAN WILSON PRESENTS *PET SOUNDS*- THE FINAL PERFORMANCES Oct. 14. Pacific Amphitheatre

BOKTOBERFEST 2017- Oct. 14. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar

VIBES4VETS, Oct. 14. Gardnn Amphitheatre

JOSH GARRELS Oct. 15. House of Blues at Anahnim GardnnWalk.

DINOSAUR JR.- Oct. 18. The Observatory

HAEMIL- Oct. 19. Muckenthaler Cultural Center

ENRIQUE IGLESIAS & PITBULL, Oct. 21. Honda Center

HANSON- Oct. 21. House of Blues at Anahnim GardnnWalk.

BERL ESTATE- Oct. 23. Thn Observatory

CRYSTAL CASTLES, Oct. 24. Thn Observatory

PAUL WELLER: Oct. 24. House of Blues at Anahnim GardnnWalk.

STEPHEN STILLS & JUDY COLLINS: Oct. 25-26. Thn Coach House

THE GARDEN SISTERS BAND- Oct. 26. Muckenthalnr Cultural Cantnr

AMERICA: Oct. 27-28. Thn Coach House

DINGO BDINGO HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY- Oct. 29. The Coach House

NOVEMBER

NEEDTOBREATHE: Nov. 3. House nf Blues at Anahnim GardnnWalk.

HALSEY- Nov. 4. Honda Cantnr

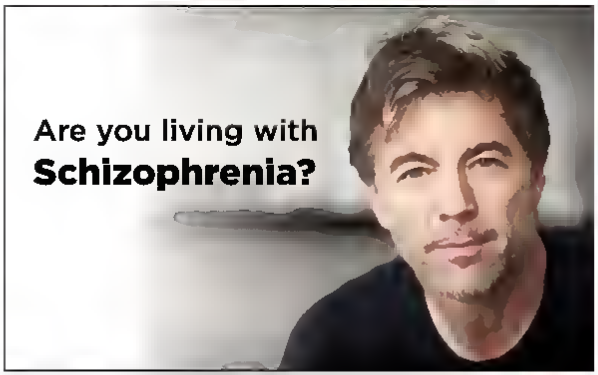
THESE HANDSOME DEVILS, Nov. 4. Gaslamp Restanrant & Bar

THE PETTYBREAKERS AND BOYS OF SUMMER- Nov. 11. Gaslamp Restaurant & Bar

TIMEFLIES- Nov. 12. The Observatory

ELBOW, Nov. 14. Thn Observatory

IMAGINE DRAGONS, Nov. 18. Honda Center



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'Bate and Snitch

I'm a 22-year-old straight male dating a 23-year-old woman. This is by far the most sexual relationship I've been in, which is great, except one part is freaking me out: I recently "caught" my girlfriend masturbating with her roommate's panties. (She knew I was coming over and wanted me to catch her.) I have not she has a habit of sneaking her roommate's worn underwear, masturbating while smelling them (as putting them in her mouth), and then sneaking them back into her roommate's laundry basket. She has also used her roommate's vibrator and dry-humped her pillow to orgasm. I got turned on hearing about all this, and she jerked me off with her roommate's panties. My girlfriend says she gets turned on being "naughty," and most of her fantasies involve being her roommate's sex slave me fucking the roommate while my GF is tied up, etc. Our sex life now revolves around the roommate—my GF has stolen a few more pairs of panties and even worn them while I fucked her, and her dirty talk is now almost entirely about her roommate. This turns me on, so I don't really want it to stop, but my questions are: (1) Is this bad? (2) Is this normal? We're unconditioned to believe women are less kinky and less sexual than men, and I don't want to buy into that. My girlfriend says she isn't "that weird." I don't know what to think.

There's No Acronym For This

1. It's bad.

2. When it comes to human sexuality, TNAFT, variance is the norm. Which means freakiness/naughtiness/kinkiness is normal—science backs me up on this—and, yes, lots of women have high libidos and lots are kinky. Your email came sandwiched between a question from a woman who needs sex daily (and foolishly married a man with a very low libido*) and a question from a woman who is into BDSM (and wisely held out for a GGG guy who's getting hetter at bondage but can't bring himself to inflict the erotic/consensual pain she craves**).

But "variance is the norm" alone can't get your girlfriend off the hook—or you, TNAFT. You and your girlfriend are both violating the poor woman's privacy, potentially her health (unless your girlfriend is sterilizing her roommate's vibrator after using it), and—perhaps most important—her trust. Honoring one another's privacy and showing mutual respect for one another's belongings are the social norms that make it possible for unrelated/unfucking adults to share a living space. We trust our roommates not to steal money out of our purses, eat our peanut butter, use our toothbrushes, etc. And even if your roommate never catches you, it's still not okay to use their fucking toothbrush. It should go without saying that we trust our roommates not to shove our dirty panties into their mouths, use our sex toys, hump our pillows, etc. We can't control who fantasizes about us—people can fantasize about whomever they care to—but we have an absolute right to control who handles our dirty underpants. (My God, think of all the times you've run out of clean underwear and fished a dirty pair out of the laundry and worn them a second time!)

Your girlfriend should make an honest, respectful, naughty pass at her roommate. And who knows? Maybe her roommate is just as pervy as you two are and would jump at the chance to have a sex slave and full use of her roommate/sex slave's boyfriend in exchange for a few dirty panties. Or maybe she'd like to move.

I'm a six-months-pregnant woman in a wonderful relationship. My sex drive has skyrocketed, and I get uncomfortably horny at random times. I work at a preschool and have gone into the one-person locked bathroom during my break for a quick reboot. Is this wrong? It takes me one minute to come, and I'm totally silent. But I'm at a preschool, and there are little kids on the other side of that door. Thoughts?

Knocked Up And Horny

You're doing nothing wrong—and pretty soon you'll be having sex in your home while your kid sleeps or plays on the other side of your bedroom door. KUAH, so you might as well get some practice in. And if you don't want a kid walking in on you at home, either (and you definitely don't), put a lock on your bedroom door.

I am a 29-year-old woman and getting married to my boyfriend of four years, "Adam," in a few months. Relationship is great, sex is fantastic—no complaints. So why am I writing? Adam's best friend, "Steve," was his roommate in college, and Adam recently revealed that he and Steve used to masturbate together. I have no idea what to make of this. I don't think Adam is gay, and I don't think Steve is, either. Maybe they're heteroflexible? But is it common for straight guys to masturbate together? Also, why is he just telling me this now, after we've been together for four years? I'm not sure how I should act around Steve. He hangs out with us a lot. Help!

Seeking To Evaluate Very Explosive Disclosure

"Buddy-hating" among straight guys is more common than people may think," said Trey Lyon of Fuck Yeah! Friendly Fire, the "definitive source for straightish porn." Lyon's website—FYFriendlyFire.com—features porn of the "het-eroflexible/almost bi" variety, i.e., two guys who aren't afraid they'll melt if their dicks touch while they're having sex with the same woman. Lyon's website has more than 200,000 followers, and he's heard from lots of straight/straightish guys who masturbate with—read: beside—their straight/straightish male buddies. Lyon doesn't have hard data for you, STEVED—only anecdotal, but it's safe to say your fiancé isn't the only straight/straightish guy out there who's done a little "buddy-hating."

So why do straight/straightish guys do this?

"In her controversial 2015 book, *Not Gay: Sex Between Straight White Men*, author Jane Ward asserts that sexual interaction between straight white men allows them to leverage whiteness and masculinity to authenticate their heterosexuality in the context of sex with men," said Lyon. "That by understanding their same-sex sexual interaction as meaningless, accidental or even necessary, straight white men can homosexually engage in heterosexual ways. As a non-white guy myself, it is my hallucination that the same might be the case across racial lines as well—at least when it comes to dudes jerking off together."

I'm going to break in here for a moment: I think Ward's book is bullshit—at least when she's talking about men who have anal/oral sex with other men on the regular and without a female chaperone. While I believe a guy can have a same-sex experience without having to identify as gay or bi—straight men should have the same latitude on this score that straight women enjoy—straightness is so valued (and apparently so vulnerable) that some people can look at guys who put dicks in their mouths at regular intervals and construct book-length rationalizations that allow these guys to avoid identifying or being labeled as bi, gay or queer. (And if sucking d*ck allows straight men to "authenticate their heterosexuality," wouldn't there be gay men out there eating pussy to "authenticate" their homosexuality?)

Back to Lyon.

"A lot of the straight guys who reach out to me mention that they enjoy bonding in a masculine albeit sexual way with another guy while also still only being responsible for getting themselves off," said Lyon. "And sharing a moment of vulnerability in this way with another guy strengthens their friendship. STEVED's boyfriend may be mentioning this now because it's not something he feels he should be ashamed of, it's something well-integrated into his sexuality and orientation, and he feels it is important to be open with his fiancée. Wait, what's the problem again?"

* Divorce and start over.

** Keep talking, baby steps. But if he can't, he can't. Taps get to have limits, too.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), sex-toy review with Erika Moen. Contact Dan at mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter (@fakedanSavage), and visit ITMFA.org.*

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TOKE OF THE WEEK

» MARY CARREON

Dr. Norm's Cookies

Everyone loves cookies, especially when they're homemade. Store-bought treats are not only flavor deficient, but they also lack love—the secret ingredient that takes home-baked goods to the next level. Edibles suffer from a variation of this problem. Most edible companies were making oil and harvesting cannabis in some form before they decided to make laced snacks, so baking isn't necessarily their gift, and most edibles taste as if you're eating skunked grass.

But Dr. Norm's Cookies are different. These Famous Amos-sized chocolate chip delights taste as if they were carefully crafted, then dipped in love. The recipe, according to the founder, has been in his family for generations. His mother, a pharmacist who was known as a magician in the kitchen, made sure her chocolate chip cookies were always in stock, as the owner's father, Dr. Norm, was obsessed with them.

This legendary old-school family recipe was perfected long before the herb came into the equation. Cannabis oil is really more of an added ingredient here, rather than something a recipe was designed around. And the result is confection perfection.

What's also groovy about these cookies is they come in various low doses of THC: 5 milligrams, 10 milligrams and 25 milligrams. Instead of taking a bite of a large cookie or eating a whole one and being loaded for hours, you can enjoy several—the way you would any other snack (especially if you have the munchies).

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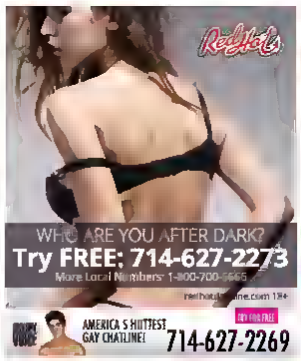

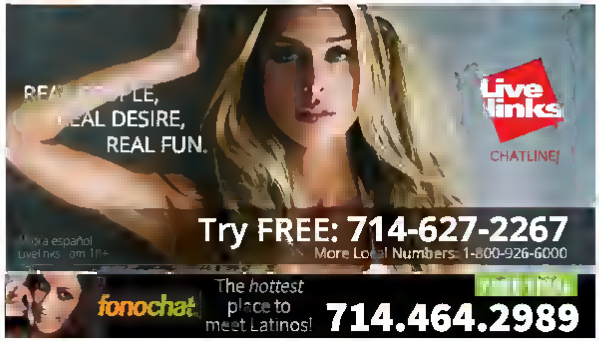

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Solar PV Designer: Design & manage Solar Photovoltaic systems. Req'd BE/BS in Electrical Engr. or Nanomaterials Engr. Mail resume: Weyen Solar Inc. 1511 E Orangethorpe Ave. #D Fullerton CA 92831

Accountant (Orange CA) Prepare, examine & analyze accounting records, financial statements/other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting & procedural standards. Report to management regarding the finances of establishment. Establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts. 40hrs/wk. Bachelor's in Accounting or related req'd. Resume to CYNU Inc. Attn: Jamie Choi, 770 The City Dr S #8450 Orange CA 92868

Sales Director (Brea, CA) Lead & direct sales dept & bus dev to increase Co's presence in electronic security system market. REQ: Bachelor's or Master's in Engr/Mktg/Related + 2 yrs exp. Mail Resumes to: NUUO US, Inc. Ref #2522, 2657 Saturn St. Brea CA 92821

Market Research Analyst: Collect & analyze mkt data for restaurant bus. Req'd: BA/BS in Bus. Admin., Econ. or Mkting. Sal. Mail resume: FR Tustin Oak Tree Plaza LLC 17612 17th St. #102 Tustin, CA 92780

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Employment

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Mechanical Engineer F/T Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Resume to Bi-Search International, Inc. 17752 Gillette Ave. Irvine CA 92614

Pastor F/T: Nonprofit Christian church. Conduct pastoral services. Req: Master of Divinity or Related. Resume: IRVINE JU CHURCH <Ivb> 9371 MURLANDS BVLD. IRVINE, CA. 92618

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Acupuncturist: Apply by mail only to Rio Medical Center Inc. 520 N. Brookhurst St., #112 Anaheim, CA 92801 attn. President.

IT Project Manager (Tustin CA) Plan, initiate and manage information technology projects. Bachelor's in Computer Sciences Engineering related. Resume to: Woongjin Inc. 335 Centennial Way #200 Tustin CA 92780

Acupuncturist (Anaheim, CA) Diagnose patient's condition based on symptoms & medical history to formulate effective oriental medicine treat plans. Insert very fine needles into acupuncture points on body surface and maintain related care. Apply herbal treatment, acupuncture & other therapy for patient's specific needs such as back, neck, shoulder, knee pains, headaches, etc. 40hr/wk. Master's in Acupuncture or Oriental Medicine, Acupuncturist License in CA Req'd. Resume to: Unity Acupuncture Health Clinic Attn: In Chul Song, 5557 E Santa Ana Canyon Rd Anaheim, CA 92807

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Transportation Designer (San Clemente, CA) Develop design and evaluate automotive products and design concepts. Bachelor's in Transportation Design. Resume to: Ideation Creation Group Inc. 1007 Calle Sombra, San Clemente, CA 92673

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Religious Education Director (Anaheim, CA) Plan, direct and coordinate church education programs and activities. Master's in Education req'd. Resume to: Purely Evangelical Church 2100 W Crescent Ave. #E Anaheim, CA 92801

Pastor: Conduct religious worship & deliver sermons. Master's Degree in Theology, Christian Education, or related req'd. Orange Korean Church Christian Performed 645 W Malvern Ave. Fullerton CA 92832

PCB Design Engr. Job code: PDE-SBI Design & layout complex, multi-layer PCBs using Allium 16. Reqs: BS+2yrs exp. Mail resumes to Boundary Devices, Attn: HR, 21072 Bake Pkwy Ste 100 Lake Forest, CA 92630. Must ref job title & code.

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Sales Representative (Anaheim, CA) Sell heavy duty electrical equipment by negotiating prices and terms. MBA related req'd. Resume to: E Solution Inc 4041 E La Palma Ave #J, Anaheim, CA 92807

CH2M Hill Inc., Geotechnical Eng neer, Santa Ana, CA. Description: Work activities: planning & site characterization, design of facilities, & construction inspection. Mail resume to: Shelly Sarbu, CH2M HILL, 9191 S. Jamaica St. Englewood, CO 80112 Job ID: 17-CA2102

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Senior SAP Solution Developer sought by Applied Medical Resources Corporation, a medical device dvlpr & mfctr (dsgn/dvlp/responsible for full life cycle implmtn of Web Dynpro/ABAP). Rach's deg in Comp Sci, Mgmt Info Systems or related & field or related w/ 5 yrs exp. Job loc: Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. E-mail resume to: SAPCAREER@appliedmedical.com

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Dog Adoption

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